

HISTORY  
OF  
MOWER COUNTY,  
MINNESOTA.

TOGETHER WITH SKETCHES OF ITS TOWNS, VILLAGES AND TOWNSHIPS,  
EDUCATIONAL, CIVIL, MILITARY AND POLITICAL HISTORY ;  
PORTRAITS OF PROMINENT PERSONS, AND  
BIOGRAPHIES OF REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS.

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HISTORY OF MINNESOTA,  
EMBRACING ACCOUNTS OF THE PRE-HISTORIC RACES, AND A BRIEF REVIEW  
OF ITS CIVIL AND MILITARY HISTORY.

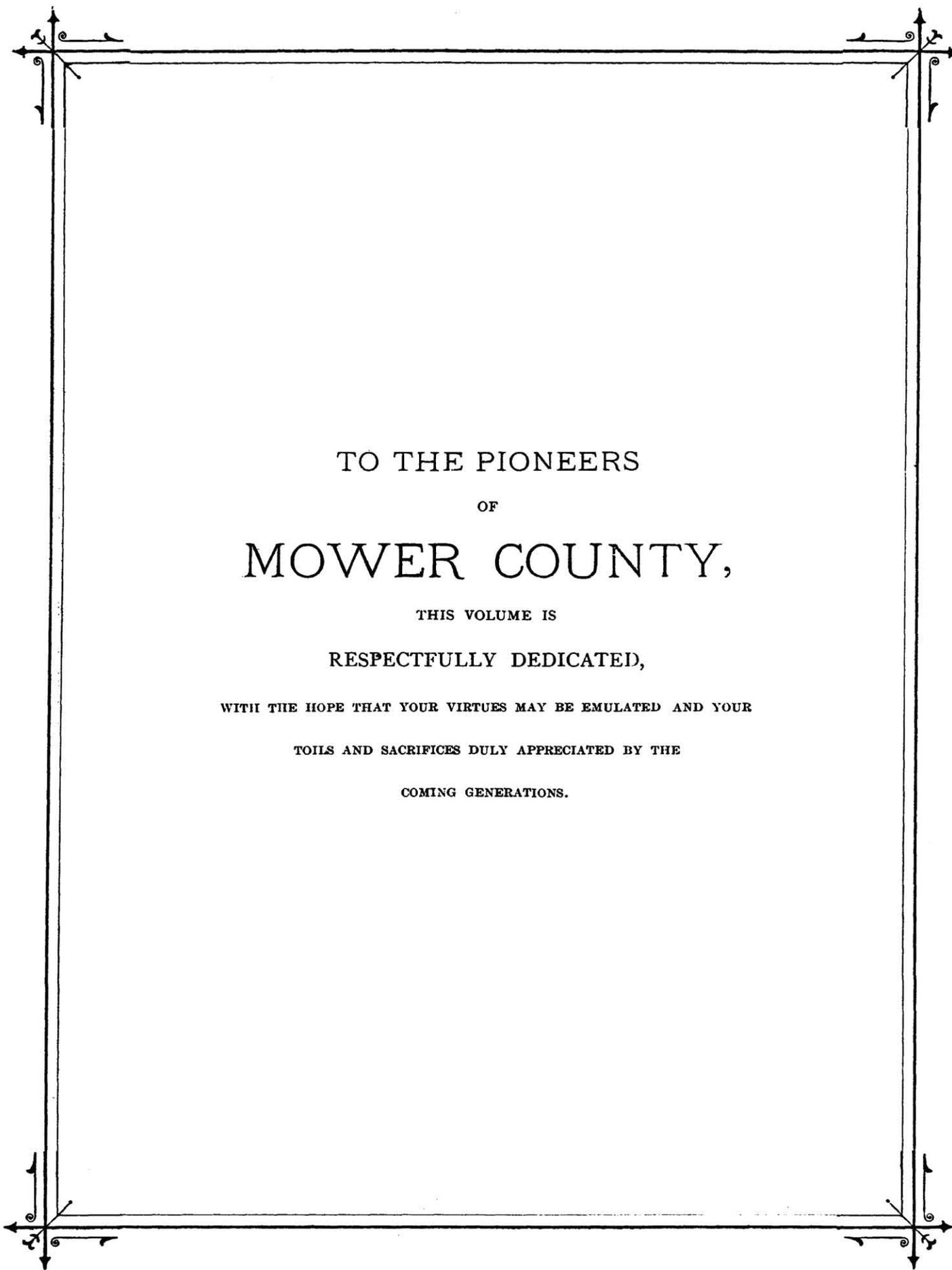
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ILLUSTRATED.

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MANKATO, MINNESOTA,  
THE FREE PRESS PUBLISHING HOUSE.  
1884.



TO THE PIONEERS  
OF  
MOWER COUNTY,

THIS VOLUME IS  
RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,  
WITH THE HOPE THAT YOUR VIRTUES MAY BE EMULATED AND YOUR  
TOILS AND SACRIFICES DULY APPRECIATED BY THE  
COMING GENERATIONS.

## P R E F A C E .

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History is a systematic arrangement or record of human events. There are numerous kinds of history on almost any number of subjects. Every Science, Profession, Art, Business and Nation has its own distinct history written. But if the Pioneer of the west were to be asked which class of history he would prefer to leave, as a legacy of lasting memorial to his sons and daughters, he would undoubtedly choose a LOCAL HISTORY, wherein is recorded the lives and deeds of those hardy pioneers, who with him, have helped to make this vast and ever changing west, what it is to-day.

This work was commenced and has been carried forward to completion, with a specific object in view, which was to place upon printed record, in a reliable manner and in substantial form, whatever incidents of importance have, from time to time, transpired within the limits of Mower county, Minnesota, together with a *complete condensed history* of the Commonwealth, of which this subdivision is a part.

Being fully convinced that Mower county afforded material sufficient for the publication of an interesting and valuable history, the INTER-STATE HISTORICAL COMPANY, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, sent a corps of experienced historians (whose sole business it has been for years to compile such books) into the county, with explicit instructions to spare no pains in compiling a complete and in every way reliable work, so far as it is possible for one generation to delve back, into the past and bring forth the history of a past generation. As a preliminary to the work, and in order to insure a good degree of correctness in the collection and compilation of the data for the work, the publishers of the work secured the sanction and hearty co-operation of the "Old Settlers Society," by reason of which they have been enabled to collect much of interest and real value, which otherwise could not have been obtained. Through the influence of that pioneer band, committees were selected to *read, correct and revise* both the general and township chapters. We feel confident that

we herewith present to patrons and the citizens of the county a history that is as near correct, as it is possible for man to make it.

Our thanks are indeed due to the people of the county, who in their generosity have aided us by much valuable time and research, in ferreting out those things which time had stowed away and almost obliterated from right. It would be impossible to make special mention of the vast number who have thus kindly rendered such service; but we cannot refrain from mentioning, in this connection, *the names of such men* as Judge Ormanzo Allen, J. M. Wyckoff, J. B. Yates.

The PRESS of the county is also entitled to our special gratitude. Without an exception, we have received the kindest notice from each of the county papers, their files being placed at our disposal, and from which we have obtained much of the information contained in many of the chapters of this volume. Suffice it to say that the editors of the various papers within the county are to be numbered among our warmest friends, and it is to be hoped that this friendship will ever remain unbroken.

In conclusion, we will add that our work is now done; the history of Mower county is placed in your hands. We are confident you will be well pleased with the records therein given and will prize it more highly as one by one the swift passing years of your lives go by, after which it will be handed down to your children as a true record of the past *thirty years* in Mower county. It has been, in a measure to us a labor of love and the pleasant hours we have spent with the old settlers, will often be recalled and the remembrance will be one of unalloyed pleasure.

With the kindest regards, we remain

Very Respectfully,

INTER-STATE HISTORICAL CO.

## Certificate of Mower County Committees.

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Below is given a copy of the certificate signed by the committee appointed by the old settlers society, to revise and correct the general history of Mower County, and also committees from each township, to revise and correct the histories of the various townships, showing that the publishers have complied with their promises, and did their utmost to produce a reliable and complete history of the county. The committees each did their work well and conscientiously, and deserve the thanks of the people of the county. The following is the certificate of the general committee :

We, the undersigned, members of the general committee appointed by the old settlers society of Mower county, to correct and revise the manuscript of the history of Mower county, written and compiled by the Inter State Historical Company, do hereby certify that we did, to the best of our ability, examine said manuscript and made all the changes and additions that we in our judgment deemed necessary, and as corrected, approve the same."

ORMANZO ALLEN,	}	<i>Committee.</i>
C. H. DAVIDSON,		
H. O. BASFORD,		
D. B. JOHNSON, JR.		
J. B. YATES.		

Following is the certificate of the committees for the respective cities and townships :

"We, the committee appointed by the old settlers' society, to revise and correct the history of (our respective townships) for the history of Mower county, written and compiled by the Inter State Historical Company, do hereby certify that said manuscript was submitted to us, and that we did make all the changes, corrections and additions that we in our judgment deemed necessary, and as corrected, approve the same :

William Madden, M. Krebsbach, J. H. Johnson, Gullik Olson. — <i>Adams Township.</i>	William A. Woodson, A. S. Lott, — <i>Huntington, Austin Twp.</i>	Ormanzo Allen, Albert Galloway, J. B. Yates, C. H. Davidson, — <i>Austin City.</i>
Chris. Engelstad. J. R. Durham, J. C. Johnson, — <i>Bennington Township.</i>	C. P. Clayton, D. B. Colman, — <i>Clayton Township.</i>	Dexter Parrott, Henry Dudfield, D. Williams. — <i>Dexter Township.</i>

G. W. Dean,  
R. A. Donaldson,  
S. Bostwick,  
H. J. Lockwood.  
—*Frankford Township.*

J. M. Wyckoff,  
F. Bevier,  
Z. B. Daily,  
—*LeRoy Township.*

Dexter Parrott,  
W. M. Corbitt,  
George W. Phillips,  
Stark Peterson,  
—*Marshall Township.*

H. A. Brown,  
L. J. Ellsworth,  
E. J. Stimson,  
—*Red Rock Township.*

G. N. Conkey,  
M. B. Slocum,  
John A. Thompson,  
—*Windom Township.*

C. F. Greening,  
D. Jorgens,  
—*Grand Meadow.*

Thomas Kough,  
George W. Corbitt,  
—*Lodi Township.*

H. C. Anderson,  
Ole Sampson,  
Gunder Halverson,  
—*Nevada Township.*

S. J. Sanborn,  
J. R. Campfield,  
George P. Covell,  
—*Racine Township.*

Alfred Launsbury,  
Moses Boliou,  
—*Waltham Township.*

P. D. Vaughan,  
George Wood,  
Thomas Gibson,  
J. G. Vaughan,  
—*Lansing Township.*

Orlando Wilder,  
William West,  
J. Beach  
—*Lyle Township.*

John Rowly,  
E. S. Hoppin,  
A. W. Thornhill,  
—*Pleasant Valley Township.*

Samuel King,  
Swen Swenson,  
Nels Peterson,  
—*Sargent Township.*

John L. Neller,  
—*Adolpho Township.*



*HISTORY*  
OF  
*MOWER COUNTY,*  
MINNESOTA

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

Each year, as it rolls its resistless way along the mighty pathway of time, is fast thinning the ranks of the hardy pioneers, who in their adventurous way, first broke the broad pathway of emigration into what now comprises Southern Minnesota, and Mower county. The relentless hand of death, pursuing its remorseless and unceasing avocation, ~~is~~ cutting down, one by one, the hardy and brave men and women who first established the foot-marks of civilization and progress in this, then, great desert.

As the changes ~~of less than a third of~~ a century are contemplated, one can scarcely comprehend or realize that the wonderful results of time's marvel-working hand are the achievements of a period ~~so brief as to be~~ within the remembrance, almost of the ~~present generation~~. Let us turn back, as it

were, the leaves of time's great book to ~~but~~ a little ~~more~~ than a quarter of a century ago, ~~and~~ the stranger would have gazed upon a landscape of wondrous beauty; selected by the Sioux and Dakotahs as their home and camping ground, with that singular appreciation of the beautiful which nature has made an instinct with the savage. These vast and rolling prairies were as green then as now, the prairie flowers bloomed as thickly and diffused their fragrance as bountifully. We are in the haunt of the red man with scarcely a trace of civilization, while the freedom of bird and beast reigns supreme. But, to-day, what a contrast! Then all was as nature had formed it, with its variegated hues of vegetation; in winter, a dreary snow-mantled desert,—in summer a perfect paradise of flowers. Now, all traces of the prim-

itive are obliterated; in place of the tall prairie grass and tangled underbrush, one beholds the rich waving fields of golden grain. In place of the dusky warrior's rude cabins and wigwams, are the substantial and ~~often~~ elegant dwellings of the thrifty farmers, and the "iron horse, swifter than the nimble deer treads the pathway, so recently the trail of the red man. Then, a sickle of fire annually cut away the wild herbage and drove to death the prairie game; now, it is the home of the cereal and nourishes on its broad bosom thousands of tons of the staple products of the great State of Minnesota. Then the storm drove the wolf and stag to their hiding place; now, the blast drives the herds of the husbandman to comfortable shelter. The transformation is complete.

In this volume it will be the aim of the historian to record the progress of Mower county from its earliest settlement to the present time; to show the changes that from time to time have been made, and how they were brought about; and to record the life work of individuals who have been instrumental in effecting the change. It will thus be seen to embrace events which many will think insignificant. "Great events find ready records, but minor doings are often neglected until they become so obscured by the dust of time as to be forever clouded," wrote a well known historian. Yet from such humble origin may spring the mightiest results. The history of men's lives is often incomplete through the negligence of those whose duty it was to record the dates, of births, or deaths, or happenings, which have proved epochs in the world's progress: History is commonly regarded but the doings of rulers, who have the world for their theater of op-

erations, and the fate of empires for their subject. Such grave performances are of necessity remembered; but, they are no more in themselves worthy of preservation, than the simpler deeds of heroism which pioneers so modestly participated in; yet when the careful student seeks for the moving forces which made thrones tremble, he is too often rewarded but meagerly. The people are seldom recorded in history. In rare exceptions may be found a clearer ray of light on humbler undertakings, but they serve only to show the other failures stronger by contrast. The pilgrim fathers who survived the shock of the first rude winter are recorded in the sparse annals of New England, and their descendants revert with pride to those heroic ancestors; but the fifty pilgrims who died during that bleak season are never spoken of by name, though they are none the less worthy of undying reverence. Again, had some one more thoughtful than the rest among John Winthrop's band, which, two and a half centuries ago set deep the seeds of civilization on the rough shores of Massachusetts, how invaluable would that book now be to those who might prepare a great work on Boston's history. Realizing these facts this work has been compiled. Thousands of facts are herein recorded, and individual sketches of hundreds of citizens, living and dead, are here placed in an enduring form. These men and women are, or have been, actors in the drama of the settlement and development of Mower county. By inserting these sketches, in addition to other matter, is preserved not only the recital of historic fact, but a sub-current of individual deeds runs through all, giving a realism to the narrative which could be imparted in no other way.

## CHAPTER II.

## LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF THE COUNTY.

The county of Mower lies in the southeastern portion of Minnesota, only two counties separating it from the Mississippi river, while it forms one of the southern tier of counties. The county is bounded on the north by Dodge and Olmsted counties; on the east by Fillmore county, the west by Freeborn county; and on the south by the State of Iowa. The county comprises an area of about 453,120 acres, or 708 square miles. It includes congressional townships 101, 102, 103 and 104, north, ranges 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18, west of the 5th principal meridian, except sections 1 to 6, in township 104, ranges 14 and 15, which were cut off and annexed to Olmsted county, May 22, 1857, through the machinations of J. M. Berry, a member of the legislature. This territory is organized into the following civil townships: Udolpho, Waltham, Sargent, Pleasant Valley, Racine, Frankford, Grand Meadow, Dexter, Red Rock, Lansing, Austin, Windom, Marshall, Clayton, Bennington, LeRoy, Lodi, Adams, Nevada and Lyle.

## SOIL AND TOPOGRAPHY.

The general surface of features of Mower county can more accurately and more readily be seen by a glance at the description of the various townships, than can possibly be given in a general chapter. The surface of the county is somewhat diversified; yet the whole is gently undulating. Nowhere within the limits of the county, does the surface approach the character properly called hilly,—but maintains throughout its general smoothness, and susceptibility of cultivation. "It will be seen," wrote H. O. Basford, in a general description of the county, published in 1883, "that our situation is necessarily healthful and free from malaria. The cold springs of crystal water that burst through the surface of our soil, feed the numerous streams that flow in every direction from our borders. Our elevation is an effectual and perpetual injunction against the inroads of fevers of any kind. The Cedar river in our western tier of townships, flows southward to join its waters with the Iowa river. It is a noble stream, furnishing abundant water power for the numerous mills situated along its banks. In the middle and eastern parts of the southern half of the county we have the Little Cedar river, Little Iowa river and numerous smaller streams, flowing south and east joining their waters with the

Little Iowa in Iowa. In the northern and eastern tier of townships the lands are watered by the many tributaries, of Root river, flowing northeast and east to the Mississippi.”

As an agricultural and stock raising region Mower county is not excelled by any county in the State. The soil is very productive; being a rich, dark sandy loam, well adapted to all cereals common to this latitude. It is also excellently adapted to the production of tame and indigenous grasses; and the raising of stock, both common and blooded, attracts the general attention of the intelligent class of farmers who have settled here. Timber is found in considerable quantities along the banks of the water courses and distributed in beautiful groves, both natural and domestic, all over the county. The general varieties of timber are oak, maple, ash, hickory, walnut, basswood, elm, cottonwood, poplar, etc. The wild lands are covered with the richest and most nutritious grasses, eminently adapted to grazing.

From the Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota from 1872 to 1882, as compiled by Prof. N. H. Winchell, we make several extracts of that portion relating to Mower county:

Estimates of the average height of the townships of this county are as follows: Racine, 1,300 feet about the sea; Franklin, 1,320; Bennington, 1,325; LeRoy, 1,300; Pleasant Valley, 1,350; Grand Meadow, 1,360; Clayton, 1,360; Lodi, 1,325; Sargent, 1,360; Dexter, 1,360; Marshall, 1,330; Adams, 1,275; Waltham, 1,340; Red Rock, 1,270; Windom, 1,240; Nevada, 1,230; Udolpho, 1,260; Lansing, 1,225; Austin, 1,190; Lyle, 1,190. The mean

elevation of Mower county is approximately 1,300 feet above the sea.

The soil of Mower county is everywhere dependent on the nature of the drift. The underlying rock has affected it only so far as it may have mingled with the general mass. It is hence primarily a gravelly clay, that being the character of the subsoil throughout the county. This gravelly clay, however, is not prominently displayed as the immediate soil of the surface. Indeed, the farmer in plowing rarely penetrates to it. It lies below a rich loam usually at depths varying from zero to two or three feet, or even more. The surface soil itself, which has resulted from it through the agency of the forces of the atmosphere and of vegetation, is of a dark color, and in general may be designated a clayey loam, or a sandy loam, depending on the nature and completeness of the local drainage. In low grounds this loam is thick and of a dark color. It is also apt to be more clayey in low ground than it is on the hill-sides or slopes adjoining, and on high hills or steep slopes it is thin or wanting, the wash of the surface having carried it into valleys. Along streams it often consists of an arenaceous loam variously mingled with the detritus of the flood-plain.

The soil of the county is everywhere characterized by the strength and fertility that the drift soils of the Northwest are noted for. They are the most reliable soils, for all the purposes of the farmer, that are known. The states that are regularly and deeply buried in drift deposits are known as the best farming states of the union. Certain rock soils, endowed with usual special qualities, may excel in the production of certain crops,

especially in favorable seasons, but for general tillage they cannot compete with the homogeneous drift soils, through which are disseminated the good qualities of the various rocks concerned in their production, in the proportions that make stability and diversity equally certain.

#### THE GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE.

Of the older rocks the lower portion of the Devonian and the upper portion of the Lower Silurian are found within the county, dipping toward the southwest. The western portion of the county is known to be immediately underlain by the Lower Cretaceous, without ascertainable eastern limits. The underlying rock is nearly everywhere hid by the drift, and for that reason the actual position of the boundaries of the formations is unknown. It is possible, indeed probable, that the Cretaceous area extends farther east through the northern part of the county, since traces of it are found in the northern part of Fillmore county. The central and northwestern parts of the county are underlain by the argillaceous sandstone, and associated shales, which are seen at Austin. In Pleasant Valley and Racine townships a limestone which is the extension of the Galena and Upper Trenton is found. This lies below the Austin rock. The Devonian limestones, which overlie the Austin rock, occupy the southern and southeastern townships, and the western portions of Lyle and Austin, on the west side of Cedar river.

The principal exposures of the Cretaceous are found in the valley of the Cedar river, and in the vicinity of Austin. These less indurated strata overlie unconformably, with an

immense lapse of intervening time not here represented by any rocks, the older rocks of the Silurian. They have been broken up by the glacial forces, and their materials have been forced into the pre-existing cavities and channels of the older strata. They also lie undisturbed in some of these old cavities. Similar appearances have been noted in Iowa by Profs. Hall and Whitney and by W. H. Barris, but in that state they seem not to have been referred to the agency of the Cretaceous ocean.

With respect to the *clay*, which is probably the uppermost of the Cretaceous deposits in the county, it is frequently seen at Austin, and at points below Austin, in the quarries that are opened in the Silurian rocks. A quarry in the left bank of Dobbin's creek, just below the mill of Mr. C. Alderson, opened in the Austin rocks, shows the beds everywhere greatly broken. Throughout, the partings and all the interstices are closely filled with this greenish clay. The clay here very rarely has any distinct bedding. It varies from green to reddish, or buff, and is accompanied also with considerable clean white sand. These are both lodged in the cavities of the rock in such a manner that they seem to have been jammed into them. They pertain to no particular horizon, and show no definite arrangement. They are disposed everywhere, from the top to the bottom of the bluff, though the sand seems to be more abundant near the bottom.

At a quarry of Mr. Alderson's near Austin, the rock was overlain by the following:

#### *Cretaceous Clays.*

1. Black sandy loam and soil... 2 to 4 feet
2. Band of red and variegated compact clay.....6 in. to 4 feet

3. Yellow ocherous band of  
clay.....6 in. to 4 feet

The superposition of these bands of clay is not so regular as indicated by the foregoing section. Occasionally number 3 is broken through, or is wanting, and number 2 lies on the rock, or passes down into its crevices; yet number 3 is generally the first over the rock. They vary in thickness and swell out in shapeless masses, and become very hard when dry. Such hard masses are seen sometimes to embrace bits of angular earthy rock, much like ocher, varying in color, from a dark burnt-umber color to a lighter shade, even to buff, and appearing when of a light color much like the mass of number 3. They can be scratched easily with a knife, and however black they may be, they give a red hæmatitic streak. When they are faded the streak also fades into a brown or yellowish-brown like limonite. Intermingled very irregularly with number 2, and sometimes, also with number 3, are masses of greenish clay which has in every other respect the same outward characters as number 2. There are here also large, crystalline, detached masses of apparently a siliceous limestone which is very hard and close-grained. In some cases, however, this varies to a porous and nearly white limestone that appears to be very pure.

There is also a white pebbly conglomerate, which passes into a ferruginous grit, found in the eastern part of the county, that is referred, with some doubt, to the Cretaceous age. This has been mentioned in the report on Fillmore county. It is seen in the north half of section 13, Frankford, in the north-and-south road. It is here a ferruginous, pebbly conglomerate, presenting a small surface outcrop, overlain by loam. It produces a sandy

road, and sandy soils in the adjoining fields for a quarter of a mile next north. Again, at the middle of section 12, in the same township, is an exposure of the same in the road. A perpendicular thickness of about ten feet of bedding seems to be here involved, in a weathered down and half-covered outcrop. This is the highest land between the two creeks. The same rock appears again on the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 11, overlying a disintegrating shaly and limy rock like that under the Devonian limestones in Fillmore county, and the same as that seen in the road about a mile and a half north of Grand Meadow. At this place, however, the heavy magnesian beds are not in outcrop. At the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 3, in the road running east and west this rusty conglomerate is conspicuous. It is disintegrated so as to make a gravel, as in Fillmore county.

As already intimated, the age of this conglomerate is not established beyond doubt, The appearances will justify its reference to the Cretaceous, and the occurrence of similar rock in other counties where it is impossible to refer it to the age to which it may belong in Mower and Fillmore counties, confirms that reference. Still, as the gritty conglomerates seen in other counties may not be the same as this, it is necessary to mention another possible explanation of this conglomerate. It may be a representative of the *Oriskany sandstone*. This sandstone lies at the base of the Devonian limestones in New York. It is well known in Ohio where it is sometimes quite coarse-grained, and involves pebbles of the Waterlime which underlies it. In Illinois it is recognized by the fossils it contains, and has the local designation *Clear Creek limestone*, although its beds are cherty and

siliceous. It has not been identified either in Iowa or Wisconsin. As the Upper Silurian limestones are wanting in the series of strata in Fillmore county at Spring Valley, there seems to have been some movement in the ocean level which caused the deposition of the Devonian directly upon the Lower Silurian. Such an agitation of the ocean's bed as would produce a conglomerate in Ohio, burying it under a sandstone like the Oriskany, or an arenaceous dolomite like the Lower Corniferous of that state, must have had its accompanying effects in other portions. The gradual disappearance of the Niagara limestone, the only representative of the Upper Silurian in northeastern Iowa, as it approaches Minnesota, and its entire absence at Spring Valley, seems to indicate an encroaching ocean. Such a movement would necessarily have buried its own beach deposits beneath the sediments of its advancing oceanic waters, and may have produced a conglomerate stratum like that seen in Mower county. If this conglomerate could be found lying below the Devonian limestones, this hypothesis would be sufficiently established, but unfortunately the drift and loam are so prevalent that the stratigraphic relations of the two have not been made out; at the same time it must be admitted that all the outcrops of the conglomerate that have been seen in Fillmore and Mower counties are so situated with respect to the strike of the limestones as to allow of the infra-position of the conglomerate.

In the southwestern corner of the county, sec. 33, Lyle, are the quarries of Mr. John Beech, one of which is on the south side of Woodbury creek, east of the north and south road, and the other is on the river bank about

twenty rods south of the mouth of the creek. Here are seen about eighteen feet of rough magnesian limestone beds, gradually dipping south and entering the river before reaching the state line. They are the cause of the water-power at Otranto, a few miles south, in Iowa, where flouring mills have been erected. These beds are firm, but very rough and cavernous, curly with concretionary structure and with rusty films that penetrate them. The only fossils discovered are the impressions of a coarsely ribbed *Atrypa*, having all the appearances of the so-called *little turtles*, seen in a similar rock at Spring Valley in Fillmore county. Indeed, the whole aspect of the rock is like that of the coarse rock containing those fossils. This rock here overlies the Austin rock, though the actual *overlie* cannot be seen. Its manner of approach to the river, and the topography toward the south and west, taken in connection with its dip and the relation it bears geographically to known outcrops of the Austin rock, are the only evidences. The strike of this limestone from Beech's quarry northward can be followed on the west side of the river by the terrace elevation which they cause, running about a mile west of the river. Where this terrace is crossed by Orchard creek, sec. 29, Austin, lime was burnt some years ago. Toward the north further this terrace recedes from the river, apparently leaving the county on the south side of Turtle creek. On the east side of the Cedar river a similar terrace, or bench of more elevated land, skirts the valley through the township of Lyle, bearing away from the river toward the valley of Rose creek, where the limerock is again exposed slightly on the land of Andrew Rol-

ertson, sec. 26, Windom, in a little valley tributary to Rose creek. The same or similar beds are next seen on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 20, Frankford, where Mr. Aaron Bush quarries them in the valley of Deer creek. Here the rock is parted into blocks that are quarried out without blasting or breaking. They are much faded and rotted *in situ*, having over them only a thickness of about four feet of loam. The beds are from six inches to two feet thick, and amount to about ten feet altogether. The stone is very good for all masonry. It is easily dressed and has a yellowish buff color. On the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 30, Frankford, the same rock was struck in the well of G. C. Easton, and was drilled into sixty or seventy feet. The abutments of the iron bridge (over the pond) on sec. 20, are from Bush's quarry. The stone is firm and quarried in blocks three feet long and about twenty inches thick. There is another quarry not much worked a short distance below this bridge, in the banks of the creek. The rock quarried at Bush's appears in the south bank of Deer creek, at Frankford, nearly on the county line, overhanging and perpendicular, in heavy beds from two and a half to four feet in thickness. It is vesicular, as there, and porous, and even cavernous, rough exteriorly, and presents the aspects of the coarse, magnesian beds of the lower Devonian limestones as seen at Spring Valley, containing also the peculiar atrypoid casts known as *little turtles*. This is on the land of John Hawkins. Again, on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 2, west of both crossings of Bear creek, similar heavy beds of magnesian limestone are seen, but nothing can be affirmed of their equivalency with those at Frankford. These ap-

pear to be overlain by the rusty conglomerate supposed to belong to the Cretaceous.

The so-called *Austin rock* underlies the foregoing coarse magnesian strata. This stone, as it appears at Austin, is a fine-grained sandrock, or shaly sandrock, that cracks like some shales after exposure to the weather. In some places, further down the river it is a fine, calcareous sandrock. The texture of the stone itself is close and the grain is homogeneous. Some slabs have been sawn for bases to tombstones. It is more safely sawn to any desired dimension than cut or broken, since it fractures treacherously; yet it is not in the least crystalline. Although a sandstone it contains no apparent grit, and is useful for fine whetstones, or for hone-stones. As seen about the city it is very generally of a dirty buff color to the depth of half an inch or even three inches, depending on the amount of weathering or oxidation. The thinner beds are altogether changed to that color. In the center of the beds, however, in the deeper parts of the quarry, the stone is blue. The presence of occasional concretionary iron-and-mud balls causes a rusty stain of a yellow color over the surface of many of the slabs. These concretionary balls fall out, or dissolve out when in the water, and leave cavities that become larger still. Some other cavities that have been protected within the homogenous rock, on fracturing the rock are seen lined with drusy quartz, and the quartz is sometimes coated with a limonite scale. The rock contains very sparingly a few molluscous fossils. These are generally too much absorbed, or too fragmentary, to admit of specific identification.

## THE DRIFT.

It is only in the eastern portion of the county, and mainly in the northeastern, that there is any noticeable deposit of the loess loam. The soil here is somewhat different from that of the rest of the county, being rather lighter, both in color and composition. In general, throughout the county the drift consists of stony clay, or till. The surface is smooth, or gently undulating. This clay has a light color for the first ten or fifteen feet, and below that depth it is apt to be blue. Stones of all kinds are disseminated through it. Some of the boulders are very large, and consist of granite. Sometimes very large boulders lie on the surface. Several such may be seen near Rose Creek village, and near Adams, and between Adams and Le Roy. At Austin a granite boulder was broken for building stone. It was at least sixteen feet long by twelve feet wide. Others were seen equally large in various parts of the county, and particularly on the high prairies north of Brownsdale, near the county line. Probably the average thickness of the drift for the county would be between fifty and seventy-five feet.

The most interesting development in respect to the drift, in Mower county, is the existence of a bed of peat at various depths below the surface in the eastern and central portions of the county. The discovery of "coal" by Mr. Thomas Smith, S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 12, Windom, led to some exploration of this peat bed. Mr. Smith followed it into the bank of Rose creek a distance of about seventy feet. Its greatest thickness was found to be eighteen inches. It lies at a depth of about fifty feet below the surface,

having been met with in different places in that immediate vicinity. Above it is a gravelly clay, of a blue color, and the same is below it. On the top of the bed of peat were found pieces of wood, thought to be pine and cedar; but by far the most of the peaty substance consists of comminuted vegetable fiber.

This peat was met again in a shaft twenty rods further southwest, and was there about a foot thick, and about the same depth below the surface. It was met in wells two and a half or three miles northwest, at thirty-five feet below the surface. This bed of peat seems to be of considerable extent superficially. A similar deposit is struck in wells at Le Roy. Mr. J. D. Wilsey, on sec. 31, met it at twenty feet. Mr. Porter, who dug his well, describes the deposit there as largely made up of woody fiber, among which he thought he recognized hemlock bark. Several other instances of striking this buried vegetation are reported in the neighborhood of Le Roy. The clay overlying the peat bed is described as a gravelly yellow clay. Six miles northwest of Le Roy it is fifty feet under the surface, and from six to eight feet thick. It is here brownish black, and burns readily. At A. D. Parker's, near Le Roy, wood was found in digging a well. It appeared to be of cedar. At Grand Meadow wells strike black clay and muck, containing wood, at twenty-four or twenty-six feet, spoiling the water. Those that only go to the depth of twenty-two or twenty-three feet get good water. One that was fifty feet deep was so permanently bad from this cause that it was filled again. This peat has been met with at a number of places in Bennington township, and in the neighboring towns of Fillmore county. Much wood is found also in the vicinity of Lyle, at a few feet beneath the surface, in digging wells. A peat bed six feet thick was encountered on sec. 13, Pleasant Valley, at a depth of forty-five feet, underlying a compact layer of blue clay, situated in elevated land. Peat moss and sticks two inches in diameter were taken from a well at Austin, twenty feet below the surface.

But little modified drift has been seen in Mower county. This, perhaps, is partly due to the fact that but little opportunity is afforded in the form of natural or artificial excavations for inspecting its actual composition. The plate of the county is wholly colored as if only the till characters of the drift exist, but a few exceptions should be mentioned. There is considerable gravel in the valley of the Upper Iowa river in Le Roy township, and in that of the Cedar in Austin and Lyle. From the south boundary of the county in sec. 33, Lyle, a flat tract consisting of gravel and sand accompanies the Cedar river northward, sometimes being about two miles wide. This plain rises from twelve to eighteen feet above the Cedar river along the north part of Lyle, and to Austin city. In the north part of Lyle a distinct terrace is seen running along the Cedar, one-half or three-fourths of a mile distant, limiting this belt of gravel and sand, and rising gradually about twenty feet above the gravel flat. This terrace gradually approaches the river toward the south, but is cut and disturbed by the entrance of Woodbury creek. The real cause of it is shown by the strike of the Devonian limestones where they appear in the banks of Cedar river, near the mouth of Woodbury creek, below which the general elevation of the country is increased, and the contour is much more rough. North of Austin this belt of gravel and sand extends to Madison, and is sometimes partly composed of stratified clay, as shown by wells in secs. 20 and 9 in Udolpho. At Dexter the surface consists of a loamy till, and at one mile east of Dexter there is a cut by the railroad in loam showing a thickness of five or six feet, while in the

adjoining low land lies a large granite boulder. In general throughout the northern part of the county the till is found from six to twelve inches beneath the surface. In the valleys of Deer and Bear creeks is found more or less stratified clay, and this has been employed, formerly, in the manufacture of red brick, on secs. 15 and 16, Frankford.

There is a multitude of mounds on the high prairies between Grand Meadow and Le Roy, which, were it not for their great number, would be unhesitatingly pronounced artificial. They are first seen surrounding a marsh about a quarter of a mile across, about two miles and a quarter south of Grand Meadow. About twenty are here visible, rising each about two feet above the surface. Farther south they increase in number, extending three or more miles toward the south and southwest. Probably five hundred could be counted, some being five feet high. They are scattered promiscuously over the upper prairie. The surface has the appearance of having been poorly drained formerly, and was perhaps covered with shallow water till late in the summer season. These mounds have the popular reputation of being "gopher knolls." It is thought that they occur where the ground is wet and the clay near the surface. Yet south of the region designated they do not exist, though there is no apparent difference in the prairie. The material of which they consist is the ordinary loam of the surface soil. Several of them have been removed, when near the highway, and the material hauled into the street for grading. There is no record or knowledge of any human bones or other relics having been found in them.

## MATERIAL RESOURCES.

With the exception of the central high prairie portion of Mower county, it is tolerably well supplied with wood for common fuel. On the prairies referred to wood is costly. That portion of the county is thinly settled with farmers. Along the valleys of the streams in the eastern and western portions of the county, the first settlements took place, and in those valleys are found the most of the population at this time. The principal natural wealth of the county lies in its soil and its agricultural adaptations. The people are generally farmers. The growth of the county in all respects will be primarily dependent on, and co-ordinate with, the settlement of the farming lands, and their profitable tillage. There is some water-power in the county, as at Austin, and below Austin to the county line, and at Le Roy and Ramsey, and it is well improved in the erection of flouring mills. Mower county contains no peat, and cannot hope for

coal. The rocks that underlie the county cannot be depended on for producing anything but building stone and quicklime. Of the former some of the limestone would produce a good marble, if properly handled. That is the case particularly at Le Roy. For making quicklime there is ample opportunity. The only difficulty will be a competition with other localities from which transportation is light, that possess cheaper fuel for calcination. Red brick can be made at almost any place in the county. This has been demonstrated at Austin, Lansing, Le Roy and Frankford. At present there is no great demand for brick, and several establishments that were started have suspended operations.

Mr. L. G. Basford's residence has window-caps cut from the Austin stone, now standing fourteen years (1883). They are in good preservation, but are covered with paint. In other places in the city this rock is breaking up under the weather, especially in exposed steps and sills.

## CHAPTER III.

## THE BEGINNING.

To the readers of local history the chapter relating to the early settlement, the first events and beginning of the history of a country, is of general interest. Especially is this the case with pioneers themselves; those who have witnessed the changes that have been made; who have seen a trackless

wilderness or prairie transformed into a beautiful country and filled with an enterprising and happy people. He reads here, slowly and critically, every word recalling memories of the past, which for a generation have been buried among a host of recollections which now arise before him like a

dream. His old associations, the deeds, the trials and battles against hunger and cold, while settlers were few and far between, and wolves howled about the little log cabin, sending a chill to his heart; and the wind driving the sifting snow through the crevices—all arise now vividly before him. Often it is with pleasure he can recall these recollections, viewing with satisfaction the thought that he lived through it all to see a thrifty and wealthy land, dotted with school houses and churches, and villages and cities. But again it will be with sadness that the past is recalled, as thoughts spring up of the dark and painful side of weary days.

How a wife, whose virtues, bravery and simplicity will always be remembered, or a child, prattling in its innocence being called from earth to its eternal home, was laid away under the cruel sod in solemn quietude, by the rough and tender hands of hardy pioneers. Time had partially allayed the sting, but the wound is now uncovered by the allusion to days gone by, and the cases are not a few, where a tear of bitterness and sadness will course down the cheek in honor of the memory of those who have departed.

Notwithstanding the many disadvantages, and even sorrows attendant upon the first steps of civilization, and the adversities to be encountered, the pioneers led a happy life. The absence of the aristocratic and domineering power of wealth and position must have been a source of comfort and satisfaction. Merit alone insured equality, and this could not be suppressed by tradition. The brotherhood of man was illustrated in a sincere and practical way, and hospitality was

not considered so much of a christian trait as a duty to humanity.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

To the reader of local history this chapter is of general interest, but to the pioneer, himself, it is more. Here he sees himself and friends and neighbors, as in the dim past they first sought out these western wilds and fought for existence in the wilderness. See him as he takes the book in hand, slowly, critically poring over every word, recalling in his mind the pictures of a vanished past at the mention of some well known name, or smiling as recollection brings back some ludicrous adventure of the early days. His old associations, the trials and tribulations, the battles against hunger and cold, while the settlers were yet scattered almost a day's journey apart. All these rise up before him as he reads. Even now in memory, he hears the wind blow around the humble cabin home that first sheltered him from the storms, and he hears the wolves howl as they did in the days of yore. The picture of the past rises up vividly before him, and he once more rejoices in the pride of his youth and young manhood. Then again, he thinks, how, through his own efforts this land has been subdued from a howling wilderness to a garden spot of luxury and beauty, with villages and cities springing up here and there, throughout the domain of the county.

But, perchance, the brow will cloud and the eye dim as memory's mystic voice recalls the dark and painful side of those earlier experiences. The loved wife of his bosom fading slowly away before the breath

of that dread destroyer or some prattling babe, the joy and pet of the father and mother, laid away under the wild tough sod, in solemn silence, by the hands of sympathizing neighbors. Time has closed these wounds, but to-day, as memory is fast unlocking the chambers of the past quarter of a century, within his mind, the silent tear will steal its way to the surface, and drop as a tribute to the loved and lost of that bye gone time.

Notwithstanding the cares and adventures that clustered round the humble cabin door of the pioneer, these first settlers "*took solid comfort.*" Here all were free and equal, and the absence of the restraining presence of wealth and position was to him a source of comfort and satisfaction. The rough hospitality, the hearty feeling of common brotherhood among these early vanguards of civilization were the spontaneous overflow of hearts full of regard for humanity, and was practiced more than from the teaching of Christian duty.

The following well written lines will find place in the hearts and minds of many a pioneer of Mower county, in common with others of the commonwealth of Minnesota.

"THIRTY YEARS AGO, MY STATE."

Thirty years ago, my State,  
 You were fair—yes, very fair;  
 There were no furrows on your brow,  
 No silver in your hair.  
 The blush of early womanhood  
 Was on your rounded cheek,  
 The wild flowers on your bosom  
 Exhaled their fragrance sweet.  
 The wild birds woke your morning  
 And the rivers lonesome flow,

Sang vespers at the even'  
 Sweet vespers, soft and low.  
 And through the many gathering shadows  
 Of those thirty years ago,  
 A mirage of green shadows  
 Will ever come and go.

Dear was the old log cabin,  
 Down by the river side,  
 'Round it we children romped,  
 In it the baby died.  
 Narrow were its windows,  
 But they let the sunshine in  
 Through curtains of wild roses,  
 That climbed and shaded them.

Through those narrow little windows,  
 We watched the springtime come,  
 As she decked the fields of winter  
 With blessed green and flowery bloom.  
 Watched the bright and golden summer,  
 Her sunset fair and cloudless sky,  
 Watched the solemn, mellow autumn,  
 Watched the wild flowers droop and die.

Watched the fires of the prairie  
 Light their beacons in the night;  
 Watched the wild birds in spring time;  
 Watched them southward in their flight;  
 Watched the morning spread with glory  
 The hills and dales with molten gold;  
 Watched the silvery, dreamy twilight  
 Wrap the night in hallowed fold.

Rude and homely was the cabin,  
 Beauty did not deck its hearth;  
 But the kettle sung a home song,  
 And the birch logs crackled mirth.  
 Its chambers were not high and spacious,  
 No marble stairway led to them,  
 But Oh! for a night of boyhood,  
 To climb the ladder once again.

The cabin sleeps in ruins,  
 The ivy from the roof has fled,  
 The mould is its only monument,  
 All but memories sweet are dead.  
 And as the years around us gather,

At life's end and eventide,  
We'll think then of the cabin  
Down by the river side.

There were days of gloom and darkness,  
Nights of dark and dread,  
Through the shadows of the years gone  
With joys and smiles are spread.  
For backward as our thoughts wander  
For those good old bygone days,  
Our hearts are filled with pleasure  
Our souls are tuned with praise.

To learn with any degree of accuracy the first actual settler of a locality that has been settled for a generation, is a more difficult task than would be imagined by the reader. There is only one rule which can be adopted, and that is to state the arrivals in the order in which they came, giving the dates as stated by reliable parties—those who are most likely to be cognizant of the facts and the reader can judge for himself. For years past there has been controversy and difference of opinion over the question as to who was really the first settler in Mower county. The historian does not dispute a single claim, but presents the claims of each with the date of settlement. The matter was submitted to the general committee appointed by the Old Settlers' Society for the revision of the history, and they decided that full credence should be given the statements of the settlers themselves, as there was no way of proving or disproving the claims. This committee was made up entirely of old settlers, and they decided that the matter of early settlement as presented in this chapter, was correct.

According to the dates given the historian the first to locate within the territory now comprising Mower county, with a view to

secure a permanent home, was the McQuillan party. Jacob McQuillan, Sr., and his son Jacob, Jr., natives of Ohio, came with their families from Ohio, in July, 1852, and settled on section 1, township 103, range 14. This land is now included in Racine township. They were accompanied by Adam Zadyger, a son-in-law of the old gentleman. They made the greater part of the journey from Ohio, overland, bringing their household goods with them. They arrived at their destination July 4th, and camped by a beautiful spring, now known as the Hamilton spring. Before unhitching his team, Mr. McQuillan nailed their coffee mill to a tree. He had at that time nine children. They lived in the wagons until he could erect a cabin of round poplar logs. There were two springs, ten rods apart. Jacob McQuillan Sr., claimed the west spring, and the son, Jacob Jr., claimed the east spring. The land was not surveyed at that time, and the old gentleman agreed with his son that he was to have the west spring, and the land west of it; while the young man was to have the land east of the spring. When the land was surveyed the line between Mower and Fillmore counties was established a few rods east of the spring, and in 1854, a man named Booth pre-empted the quarter section that young McQuillan had claimed. This created trouble, and a force of McQuillan's friends congregated, well armed, to put the intruder out of the way. Booth's friends gathered to meet the opposition, and 40 of them spent the night at the hotel in Hamilton. McQuillan's friends sent an advance guard, which was met by a few of Booth's friends, near Hamilton. When the former's

friends found that Booth was prepared to meet them and defend this claim, they soon dispersed. This place was in litigation for some time, and financially ruined both the old man McQuillan and his son, and Booth kept possession. The land in question laid just over the line in Fillmore county, and included the site of Hamilton.

Jacob McQuillan occupied his Mower county claim one year, then removed to Fillmore county. Mr. Corey lived on the claim one year, when McQuillan sold it and entered land in Fillmore county where he improved a farm and lived until after the war. When he was 73 years of age he separated from his third wife and returned to Ohio, where he died soon afterward. He was a powerful man, with an iron constitution; very kind, hospitable, and well liked generally, although he was uneducated, and uncouth in his manners—a veritable pioneer.

In March, 1853, the next settlement was made by Thomas W. Corey, a native of Massachusetts, who came from Illinois, overland, by way of Davenport and Decorah. He settled on the McQuillan claim, and erected a log cabin 18x20 in which he often entertained travelers. This was on the road from Decorah to Mantorville. The charge was usually 40 cents for two meals and lodging. Their post office and trading point for two years was Decorah. Mr. Corey lived upon the claim for about one year, then moved just across the line into Fillmore county. Eighteen months later he removed to the village of Hamilton, and erected the first hotel there. In 1880 he removed to Tennessee, where he died in 1882.

From this date forward for several years the main settlements were made along the streams in the eastern and western parts of the county. The following comprised about all of the settlers who came in during 1853:

Lansing Township—Hunter Clark.

LeRoy Township—John VanHoughton, George Squires, Moses Niler, J. S. Priest, Isaac Armstrong.

Lyle Township—Mr. Woodbury.

1854—Nevada Township—William Allen, Thove Oleson, Andrew Anderson, Peter Martin, Ole Anderson, Knude Anderson Quoile, Asleck Oleson, Tron Richardson, Ole Sampson, Swan Gorganson, Hans Swenson.

LeRoy Township—Fayette Lincoln, Geo. Britt, Samuel Bacon, W. Vergerson, Palmer H. Stevens, James W. Prentice.

Lyle Township—Orland Wilder, James and Return Foster, John Tiff, Eben Merry.

Lansing Township—Samuel Clayton, John Pettibone, N. G. Perry, Samuel Dixon, A. B. Blackman.

Austin Township—D. J. Tubbs, Austin Nichols, D. L. Chandelor, C. G. Powers, and C. Leverich.

From this time on settlement was made rapidly. For full account of those who came in prior to 1860, and some who came subsequently, see the respective township histories, in which such settlements were made.

If any omissions are noticeable to the familiar reader of this work, it will be remembered that great care has been exercised by the historian to obtain all, however some may have been overlooked by the old settlers who informed the historian.

## COUNTY BUILDINGS.

In March 1857, the County Board of Commissioners engaged the office of A. S. Everest, in Austin, to be used as county seat headquarters. The Register of Deeds officed there and this was the place for holding the meetings of the Board of Commissioners. This and other small office rooms served for county seat buildings until the fall of 1868, when a Court House was completed, through an act of the Board of Commissioners of April 9th, 1868. At this meeting bids were received for the erection of a county building, and D. J. Tubbs being the lowest bidder, the contract was awarded to him in the sum of \$6,450. A building committee was appointed consisting of Messrs. Beech, Stimson and Bishop. The building was to be completed by September 5, 1868. This was a two-story brick structure and was located on the corner of Main and Maple streets, opposite the present beautifully located public square. This building served the county well until 1881, when it was the will of the people that a new, larger and better Court House be provided the rapidly progressing county. In accordance with this manifest wish, the Board of County Commissioners commenced laying plans to erect more spacious quarters. At a meeting of the Board of Commissioners, held March 29, 1881, block 13—the old public square, owned by various parties, was purchased for the total sum of \$1925.00. A building committee was then appointed, which consisted of Oscar Ayers, O. C. La Bar and W. B. Mitson. Bids were solicited for constructing the basement of the contemplated Court House.

Dwyer & Mehan.....	\$10,511.15
Thomas McCall.....	\$10,000.00
H. J. Anderson.....	\$ 9,694.00
D. J. Tubbs.....	\$ 9,200.00

Mr. Tubbs being the lowest bidder, was awarded the contract and effected the work in a very satisfactory manner. H. J. Anderson was appointed as superintendent of construction, and received for his services \$30 per week.

The building committee took much pains to become thoroughly conversant with the various kinds of architecture, making trips to Milwaukee, St. Paul, Minneapolis and other points, to view and study into the plans of such building and finally engaged the services of W. H. Dennis, of Minneapolis, as their architect and designer. June 14th, 1882, the contract for erecting the superstructure was awarded to Snow & Allsip of Chicago. Mr. Snow was the Solomon Snow whose name appears throughout this history, as one of the early residents of Mower county. The amount called for in this contract was \$52,291. The work of construction went on, and the building was completed and first occupied in the month of March 1884. Their court house is the just pride of the populace of Austin and Mower county. Its high, symmetrical dome towers up 170 feet from the base, and is indeed an index finger pointing the stranger and passer-by to a people of thrift, energy, and public spirit. The view from the dome of this building, as one looks out over the fine farming lands of the county, is a charming sight to behold.

A more massive and artistically designed structure does not stand in any part of Minnesota. The basement is of "half cut" lime stone, including the two wide stairways which

lead to the entrance, from the east and west sides of the building. The building proper, is of pressed St. Louis brick, red brick, with beautiful stone trimmed window and door caps. The roof is slated and neatly painted. The interior is more elegant, in its finish, if possible, than the exterior. The main hallway of the first floor, is paved with differently colored stone; the wood work is oiled oak, which is of the most expensive and substantial material used in modern construction. The desks and other office furniture are made of clear grained red cherry, the appearance of which is decidedly fine. Mower county can boast of what but few other counties in the State can; that while she possesses one of the most magnificent court houses in Minnesota, that she "*owes no man anything.*" This is due solely to the fact that good and efficient men have been placed in office, and that they have not abused their office in becoming slack or corrupt, but have ever labored to enhance the best interests of the county, even as they would have done with their own funds. About seven years before the completion of the new court house, the Board of County Commissioners began to store away a fund for that purpose, by levying a light tax each year, thus the tax payers were not burdened by a heavy tax any one year, or compelled to pay interest on a large bonded indebtedness, as most counties have done, in this and other States. No small credit is due to the enterprise and public spirit of the city of Austin, who taxed herself to the amount of \$6000 as an aid toward erecting the court house. The total cost of the building, lots, and heating apparatus, was, in round numbers \$67,900, divided about as follows: \$61,-

500 for building; \$1,925 for grounds; and \$4,500 for furniture and fixtures. After deducting the \$6000 paid by the city of Austin, the cost to the people of Mower county, was about \$61,916.

The new court house was fittingly dedicated by the formal opening of the first session of court within its walls. Judge J. Q. Farmer, in his eloquent charge to the Grand Jury, spoke as follows:

GENTLEMEN OF THE GRAND JURY:—You have been subpoenaed from the several towns of this county to serve as Grand Jurors at this term of the court to aid in the administration of the criminal law of this State. As good American citizens, either by birth or by adoption, selected by lot from the various trades, professions, employments, and avocations of business life, and belonging to the different social and political societies, you have a common interest and purpose to faithfully discharge the duties of your temporary office.

You have convened upon neutral, may I not say sacred ground, in this new and beautiful court house, erected by the people of Mower county as a seat of Justice.

This capacious and magnificent temple which we are about to occupy for the first time, bespeaks in terms stronger than human language, the faith, the dependence and veneration with which the impartial Goddess of Justice is held by the people of Mower county. The people in furnishing the means have only been equaled by the economy of the county commissioners in the expenditure of the same.

The mind that conceived and planned, as well as the dextrous hands that executed

this model of stability, utility, and beauty, are entitled to great praise. I will attempt no eulogium of this beautiful structure, or its authors, for vocal language is tame compared with the silent language of the artist. Suffice it to say that this noble edifice seems to happily combine all the strength, durability, convenience, beauty and grandeur of modern architecture. It is common property. Every citizen of Mower county has an interest in it, and the State should be proud of a people who are so patriotic and devoted to the government as to willingly contribute so liberally to one of its departments. The powers of our State government are divided into three distinct departments: Legislative, Executive and Judicial. The Judicial department is the sheet anchor to the ship of State, and so long as it is firmly imbedded in the fundamental rock of honesty, truth and intelligence, the people may rest assured of their rights and liberties. It comes closer home to them than to other departments of power. They look to it not only to protect their person and property from the encroachment of individuals, but from the encroachments of legislative and executive departments of the State.

The Executive may be partisan and partial, the Legislative may be corrupt. Yet if the Judicial department remains firm and steadfast, and administers impartially and faithfully, under the constitution, the individual rights will remain comparatively safe. The jury, both Grand and Petit, form an important factor in this department, capable of adding to or detracting from its integrity and good character, and without their favorable or harmonious action no court can do full and complete justice.

I firmly believe the stability and prosperity of our government, in a great measure, depends upon maintaining an enlightened, honest, industrious, faithful and impartial judiciary. In the erection of this beautiful court house, the people of Mower county acknowledge their faith and confidence in the judiciary of the State, and as we are about to dedicate it by actual use to the noble purposes for which it has been built, may we entertain and express a hope in behalf of the people, that this Bench will ever be occupied by an honest, wise and impartial Judge, and those jury boxes ever filled with discreet and fair minded jurymen, and that the bar represented by gentlemen learned in the law, honest and truthful, faithful to their clients, respectful to the Court, courteous to one another, and zealous advocates of right and justice. And may we further entertain and express the hope that justice may be so administered at this court, that all people, whether weak or strong, rich or poor, high or low, will approach this bar on a common level, with the fullest confidence that their rights will be protected and their wrongs redressed according to the law and the facts of their respective cases. I am happy to inform you that crime appears to be on the decrease in your county, and the prospect is that your duties will not be very great, complicated or protracted. But it is important that you should enter upon the discharge of your duties in the right spirit and frame of mind, divested of all feelings of prejudice or ill-will, love or partiality, fully resolved to diligently enquire after the truth and boldly act upon the facts as they shall appear to you from the evidence, and impartially apply the same to

the law as you shall find the same in the statutes of the State; bearing in mind that the responsibility of deciding who shall be prosecuted at this term of court, for the commission of crimes, rests entirely with you.

#### THE POOR FARM.

One of the marked evidences that America is made of the most liberal minded, charitable and philanthropic people of any on the globe, is a knowledge of the system and perfect working of her humane institutions. No county has better regulations concerning its prisons, asylums and various hospitals than ours. While our laws are, in the main, rigid, we care for our prisoners as though they were men and not beasts. They are clothed, fed and cared for in a humane manner. The way in which we care for our unfortunate *poor* and poverty-stricken sick, is indeed a credit to our people and our Republican form of government. And year by year, better methods are coming to obtain. No part of the United States affords a better example of this, than in the institutions of Minnesota. Great has been the improvement regarding these things, even in the last twenty years, since the plan of supporting a poor farm has come into general practice. While "there is no place like home," it is a happy thought, that, if perchance we become subjects of some calamity and by it all our means for support is taken from us, we are not left to suffer for the necessary care our existence requires. Our people are taxed to support such unfortunates and they do not do it begrudgingly either, but rather deem it a pleasure.

Prior to 1868 the paupers of Mower county were cared for by some of the citizens, who

were paid by the county. At that date a farm was purchased by the county in LeRoy township and fitted up for this purpose. April 16, 1868, the Board of County Commissioners, purchased seventy-five acres of land on the northwest quarter of section 28, township 101, range 14, of Daniel Caswell and wife, for the sum of \$1,500; and also eighty acres of W. Hays for \$1,840. This constituted the first poor farm in the county. Proper improvements were made and the poor were cared for, at that place until 1876, when it was deemed best to exchange this property for the present poor farm, which is located on the northeast quarter of section 31, township 103, range 18, which is in the township of Lansing, and is about three miles distant from the city of Austin. This place was bought (or traded for) of John S. Lacy and wife February 11, 1876. This farm comprises 160 acres, which is an excellent piece of land and now contains very good improvements, including all necessary buildings. It has been in charge of a trusty overseer, whose salary in 1884, was \$350 and expenses per annum. At the present time the institution is nearly, if not quite, self sustaining. The place is well stocked and is tilled in the most profitable manner.

#### TERRITORIAL ACTION.

The county was named in honor of John E. Mower, an early member of the Legislature. Until the year 1853 the county was included within the limits of what were then termed Dakota and Wabashaw counties. These two counties embraced all the territory lying south of town 115, and as far west as the Missouri river. The boundary line be-

tween the two counties ran about one mile west of Austin. These counties in 1853 were divided into twelve smaller ones, and Mower county was included within the bounds of Rice county.

In February, 1885, the limits of Mower county were defined by the legislature. It is bounded on the north by Olmsted and Dodge counties; on the west by Freeborn county; on the south by the Iowa State line; on the east by Fillmore county. It included towns 101, 102, 103, 104, ranges 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18, west of 5th principal meridian, except sections 1 to 6 inclusive, in town 104, ranges 14 and 15, which were cut off and annexed to Olmsted county, through the influence of J. M. Berry a member of the legislature, May 22, 1857.

It contains in all 453,120 acres, or 708 square miles. The surface is generally undulating prairie interspersed with timber along the borders of the streams. The congressional survey of these lands was made in 1853-4.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY.

On the first of March, 1856, Governor Gorman, agreeable to an act of the legislature, appointed George White, Phillip Howell and William Russell, as a temporary Board of County Commissioners for said county, with full power to do and perform all acts and duties devolving upon officials in that capacity; also with power to locate, temporarily, the county seat.

These commissioners met on the 7th day of April, 1856, in the village of Frankford, and proceeded to appoint the various county officers, as follows: Register of Deeds and

Clerk of the Board of Commissioners, Timothy M. Chapman; Treasurer, Lewis Patchen; Probate Judge, C. J. Felch; Surveyor, Moses Armstrong; Sheriff, G. W. Sherman. These are the only officers for which appointments were then made. At this same meeting the commissioners proceeded to divide the county into three election precincts, as follows:

High Forest precinct, township 104, ranges 14, 15 and 16, were set off and duly established, with John Robinson as assessor; Thomas H. Armstrong, Justice of the Peace; Orson Lyon, Constable.

Frankford precinct included township 101, 102 and 103, ranges 14, 15 and 16. George Hunt was chosen Assessor; David D. Frazier, Justice of the Peace; John W. Farquer, Constable.

Austin precinct was composed of townships 101, 102, 103 and 104, ranges 17 and 18. Washington Mason was appointed Assessor in this precinct; Sylvester Smith, Justice of the Peace; Charles Ferris, Constable; J. B. Yates, Road Supervisor.

Each of the above precincts composed but one road district. At a later meeting of the board, held sometime in July, they established two additional precincts—Le Roy and Red Rock. The former named was composed of township 101, range 14. In this division Samuel P. Bacon was appointed Justice of the Peace; W. B. Spencer, Constable. Red Rock was the north half of township 103 and all of township 104, ranges 17 and 18. Chas. F. Hardy, was made Justice of the Peace; Hilliard Tilton, Constable.

All officers appointed were to hold their respective positions until January, 1857. The first general election was held October

14, 1856, at which 374 votes were cast, and the following officers elected: J. M. Berry, Representative; R. L. Kimball, Register of Deeds; J. B. Yates, Sheriff; S. P. Bacon, Treasurer; M. K. Armstrong, County Surveyor; A. B. Vaughn, Judge of Probate; Dr. O. Allen, Coroner; W. B. Spencer, George H. Bemis and H. C. Blodgett, Commissioners.

The following shows a complete list of county officers:

REGISTER OF DEEDS.

Timothy M. Chapman.....1856  
 R. L. Kimball.....1857-1858  
 David Blakely.....1859-  
 Solomon Snow.....1861-1869  
 R. L. Hathaway.....1869-1871  
 George W. Robinson.....1871-1875  
 William M. Howe.....1875-1882  
 M. M. Trowbridge.....1882-1884

TREASURER.

Lewis Patchin.....1856-1857  
 S. P. Bacon.....1857-1858  
 A. S. Everest.....1858-1860  
 T. J. Lake.....1860-1862  
 Sylvester Smith.....1862-1869  
 Solomon Snow.....1869-1870  
 J. S. Irgens.....1870-1874  
 I. Ingmundson.....1874-1879  
 P. T. McIntyre.....1879-1881  
 G. L. Case.....1881-1884

AUDITOR.

D. B. Johnson, Jr.....1859-1860  
 Ormanzo Allen.....1860-1865  
 H. M. Allen.....1865-1871  
 J. P. Williams.....1871-1875  
 P. T. McIntyre.....1875-1879  
 J. M. Wyckoff.....1878-1880  
 H. W. Elms.....1880-1884

SHERIFF.

G. W. Sherman.....1856-1857  
 J. B. Yates.....1857-1859  
 George W. Bishop.....1859-1861  
 E. D. Fenton.....1861-1865

W. F. Grummons.....1865-1867  
 D. J. Tubbs.....1867-1869  
 Allan Mollison.....1869-1873  
 George Baird.....1873-1875  
 R. O. Hall.....1875-1878  
 H. B. Corey.....1878-1884

COUNTY ATTORNEY.

Ormanzo Allen.....1857  
 D. B. Johnson, Jr.....1859-1860  
 C. J. Shortt.....1860-1864  
 H. R. Davidson.....1864  
 D. B. Johnson.....1864-1865  
 C. J. Shortt.....1865-1867  
 E. O. Wheeler.....1867-1869  
 C. J. Shortt.....1869-1871  
 L. Bourgard.....1871  
 Lafayette French.....1874-1878  
 C. C. Kinsman.....1878-1880  
 George F. Goodwin.....1880-1882  
 John M. Greeman.....1882-1884

CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT.

V. P. Lewis, (by appointment)....1855-1858  
 J. E. Willard.....1858-1861  
 L. A. Sherwood.....1861-1870  
 J. F. Atherton.....1870-1874  
 F. A. Elder.....1874-1877  
 S. Sweningsen.....1877-1884

PROBATE JUDGE.

C. J. Felch.....1856  
 A. B. Vaughn.....1857-1859  
 G. M. Cameron.....1859-1861  
 Robert Lyle.....1861-1866  
 Ormanzo Allen.....1866-1869  
 C. F. Hardy.....1869-1870  
 E. O. Wheeler.....1870-1871  
 Jessie Rose.....1871-1874  
 W. H. Crandall.....1874-1875  
 S. Harter.....1875-1876  
 G. M. Cameron.....1876-1879  
 John O. Farmer.....1879-1880  
 Ormanzo Allen.....1880-1884

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.

J. B. Tollman.....1864-1867  
 Sherman Page.....1867-1869  
 O. T. Otis.....1869-1870  
 — Pike.....1870

J. T. Williams.....	1870-1872
A. A. Harwood.....	1872-1874
E. F. Morgan.....	1874-1875
N. M. Holbrook.....	1875-1877
A. H. Tuttle.....	1877-1881
D. C. Belden.....	1881-1884

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

March 1st, 1856, Governor Gorman, in accordance with an act of the legislature, appointed the first set of County Commissioners for Mower county—they were: George White, Phillip Howell, and William Russell. These held till January 1st, 1857, when the following, regularly elected Commissioners begun the administration of county affairs: W. B. Spencer, George H. Bemis and H. C. Blodgett. The following gives the name of each County Commissioner for each year, down to 1884, inclusive:

1858—George H. Bemis, chairman; W. B. Spencer, and C. F. Hardy.

1859—No record appears.

1860—Ormanzo Allen, chairman; C. F. Hardy and S. P. Bacon. Upon the resignation of Mr. Allen to take the office of County Auditor, J. Stewart was elected Commissioner in his place.

1861—Milo Frary, chairman; Samuel Loomis and J. Stewart.

1862—G. H. Bemis, chairman; R. C. Heath, and G. T. Angell.

1863—A. Beach, chairman; R. C. Heath, and T. Angell.

1864—A. Beach, chairman; W. B. Spencer and C. N. Stimson.

1865—Alanson Beach, C. N. Stimson, and W. E. Harris.

1866—Alanson Beach, chairman; William E. Harris and C. F. Hardy.

1867—Alanson Beach, chairman; William E. Harris and E. J. Stimson.

1868—Alanson Beach, E. J. Stimson and Joseph McKnight.

1869—Alanson Beach, chairman; D. P. Putney and George W. Bishop.

1870—Alanson Beach, chairman; George W. Bishop, D. P. Putney and Joseph McKnight.

1871—Alanson Beach, chairman; H. E. Tanner, C. J. Felch, George W. Bishop and E. F. McKee.

1872—C. J. Felch, chairman; W. M. Howe, H. E. Tanner, E. F. McKee and A. C. Bisbee.

1873—C. J. Felch, chairman; W. M. Howe, A. C. Frisbee, E. F. McKee and H. E. Tanner.

1874—C. J. Felch, chairman; W. M. Howe, H. E. Tanner, A. C. Frisbee and James Grant.

1875—C. J. Felch, chairman; H. E. Tanner, James Grant, William Richards and A. J. French.

1876—William Richards, chairman; C. J. Felch, James Grant, A. J. French and F. W. Kimball.

1877—William Richards, chairman; A. J. French, F. W. Kimball, G. W. Allen and W. B. Spencer.

1878—William Richards, chairman; G. W. Allen, W. B. Spencer, O. C. La Bar and M. M. Trowbridge.

1879—William Richards, chairman; O. C. La Bar, G. W. Allen, W. B. Spencer and M. M. Trowbridge.

1880—William Richards, chairman; M. M. Trowbridge, O. C. La Bar, O. W. Case and W. B. Mitson.

1881—O. C. La Bar, chairman; W. B. Mitson, R. A. Donaldson, O. Ayers and Hans Anderson.

1882—W. B. Mitson, chairman; H. C. Anderson, Oscar Ayers, J. B. Graves and R. A. Donaldson.

1883—Oscar Ayers, chairman; H. C. Anderson, J. B. Graves, C. L. Schröder and John Gilligan.

1884—Oscar Ayers, chairman; H. C. Anderson, J. B. Graves, C. L. Schröder and John Gilligan.

#### LOCATING THE COUNTY SEAT.

Ever since the organization of the county the "bone of contention" had been the county seat question. The first Board of County Commissioners, who were appointed by Governor Gorman in 1856, were George White, Phillip Howell and William Russell. On the 7th day of April 1856 these temporary commissioners met in the village of Frankford and appointed the various county officers. It was also their business, under authority of the legislature to locate a county seat and the record of such an act should have been recorded in the County Commissioners book of Record; but no such record was then made, but some time later the following record appeared on the fly leaf of Book "A" of Deeds *and marked* "page 1." This is the only record of the location of the county seat at Frankford:

"According to an act of the Minnesota Legislature, approved March 1, 1856, George White, Phillip Howell and William Russell, were appointed commissioners to locate the seat of Mower county. Said commissioners met on the 7th of April, 1856, and located the county seat of Mower county at the following place to-wit: In the vil-

lage of Frankford, situate on the southwest quarter, of the southeast quarter, and the southeast quarter, of the southwest quarter of section 13, township 103, range 14, west of the fifth principle meridian."

Witness our hands this 7th day of April, 1856.

PHILLIP HOWELL,  
WILLIAM RUSSELL, } Commissioners.  
GEO. WHITE.

Attest: Timothy N. Chapman, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners.

Mower county at that time was entitled to one representative in the legislature and his election took place in October 1855—the first election held within the county. The polls at High Forest were located under an oak tree, a board with the ends placed on two barrel heads served as a judge's desk. The east side nominated W. B. Covell, a Democrat, and the west side A. B. Vaughan, a Republican. Ninety-seven votes were polled; Vaughan received the majority, and received his certificate of election from the judges, and applied at the house for his seat. In the meantime Covell had made the returns of the election to the register of deeds, in Houstin, and from him received his certificate of election, proceeded to the house, and was duly qualified as the first member of the legislature from Mower county.

The first general election held in the county occurred October 14, 1856. Two local tickets, without regard to politics, were put in nomination. On the west side, the People's ticket, with J. M. Berry, for Representative; R. L. Kimball, for Register of Deeds; J. B. Yates, (*High*) Sheriff; S. P. Bacon, Treasurer; N. P. Todd, Surveyor; W. B. Spencer, of LeRoy, G. H. Bemis and H. C. Blodgett, as Commissioners; A. B.

Vaughan, Judge of Probate, and Dr. O. Allen, for Coroner.

On the east side the Union ticket placed in the field, T. H. Armstrong, for Representative; W. B. Covell, Register of Deeds; J. S. Pierson, Sheriff; G. P. Covell, Treasurer; M. K. Armstrong, Surveyor; William Spencer, of LeRoy, C. F. Hardy and N. Goodsell, as County Commissioners; C. J. Felch, as Judge of Probate, and J. Pierce, as Coroner.

The "People's ticket" was elected with a majority of 46 votes out of 374 polled, with the exception of Mr. Todd, who was defeated by 74 votes. Heretofore the east side had had all except three minor offices, but in this election the west side gained the power.

The first question of any importance which came before the newly elected County Commissioners was that of establishing a permanent county seat.

The people of the west side of the county argued that it would be easier to locate the county seat at Austin, than it would be to go to Frankford to transact the county business.

When it was established at Frankford by the first (temporary) County Commissioners, it was by them declared that it could not be removed except by a vote of the people of the county. Two of the newly elected Commissioners, George H. Bemis and H. C. Blodgett favored its removal, and took it upon themselves to remove it to Austin.

As the county had erected no building, the records and little *tin box* which contained them, constituted the county seat, and wherever these were there it was also.

About noon Sheriff Yates and Vaughan,

with the little tin box on which rested the future of both Frankford and Austin, in their sleigh started for Austin. That night they stopped at the Tattersoll House, in High Forest. The landlord took the tin box and hid it away, with instructions to deliver to no one but Yates and Vaughan. In a short time Sheriff Sherman (Yates had not yet duly qualified) with a posse of men from Frankford, arrived and arrested Yates, Vaughan, Bemis and Tattersoll, (who was the landlord) for grand larceny. He then posted guards around the hotel and went to obtain a search warrant, as the landlord would not give up the tin box containing the records. While he was gone, Yates made a bargain with W. Sykes, by which Sykes was to receive \$20, if he would obtain the box and deliver it to Yates, in case they succeeded in removing the county seat, if not he was to have \$5.00 which was paid down. At a signal from Yates (he was to pass out of the back door) the man was to take it out and hide it. The evening being quite cold, Yates soon induced the guards to come in and take a drink, and they became quite convivial, and supposed as long as they watched the persons under arrest that their duty would be performed, and that the box would be safe. But alas, for the cunning strategy of Yates. He passed out of the front door (the signal agreed upon) and down into the timber a short distance. Three of the guards, who saw him go out, followed him, but he eluded them by taking advantage of a short turn in the road, and jumped into the brush, while the three guards passed directly on. In the meantime Sykes had co-operated with Yates in carrying out the plans already laid, and was

seen by Yates in the act of hiding the box. Yates then took the box and after Sykes had gone to the house took the box some distance and hid it beneath the mantles of snow which then covered the earth to quite a depth, and covered it with rails; it remained there for three or four days. After hiding the box, Yates went about a half mile and stopped a few hours at the house of Mr. Pierce, and then returned to the hotel. He afterward drew a diagram of the grounds where the box had been hidden, and gave it to John Patterson and C. C. Hanchett, who dug it up from beneath the snow and conveyed it to Austin, where it was secreted in the hardware store of R. L. Kimball. The officers procured a search warrant, which only allowed them to search within the store proper, and not in the upper story, which was used by Mr. Kimball as a residence. While search was being made about the store room, it is said that some one carried the tin box under cover of a shawl to the cellar and there stowed it away within a pile of potatoes. Thus it will be seen the search was made in vain. George Bemis had the book containing the proceedings of the county commissioners under his coat the night they all remained at Tattersoll's House, and the following morning he and Yates walked about eighty rods from the hotel and there

deposited it under the snow, at the foot of an oak tree, disguising the marks they had necessarily made in the snow, by a certain process *more effectual than elegant!*

The book remained there a short time, and was then taken back to Frankford and carried by Mr. Bemis throughout the trial, closely guarded beneath his coat and vest.

Armstrong, Morse, Willis and Belden appeared in the trial for the prosecution, and Jones, Ripley and Gordon E. Cole for the defense. The citizens from the west part of the county having heard of the arrests which had been made, proceeded at once to Frankford, to liberate the prisoners, all going well armed as it was feared by some that something serious might transpire. But all soon passed off without the shedding of blood, and with the exception of a false alarm that caused no little consternation among about fifteen men, who were sleeping in Levi Patchin's old log tavern, the examination proceeded without further trouble. Yates and Bemis were each bound over for the sum of \$3,000, to appear at the next term of the Fillmore county court. Before that session of court convened, the location of the county seat at Austin was decided by a vote of the people June 1, 1857, and consequently no further action was had in regard to the parties under bonds.

## CHAPTER IV

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT—ACTS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

The first meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held at the village of Frankford on the 7th of April, 1856. Frankford had been established the county seat. The County Commissioners present were Phillip Howell and George White. The first business to come before the Board was the appointment of the first county officers, which resulted in the selection of the following named: Timothy M. Chapman, Register of Deeds and Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners; C. J. Felch, Judge of Probate; Lewis Patchin, County Treasurer; M. K. Armstrong, County Surveyor; G. W. Sherman, Sheriff and collector of taxes.

The next work for the Board was the division of the county into election precincts and the appointment of officers in each. The precincts created were named High Forest, Frankford and Austin. High Forest embraced ranges 14, 15 and 16, of township 104. Frankford comprised townships 101, 102 and 103, ranges 14, 15 and 16. Austin embraced townships 101, 102, 103 and 104, ranges 17 and 18. In High Forest precinct

Thomas Armstrong was appointed Justice of the Peace; Orson Lyon, Constable; John Robinson, Assessor; and J. S. Stimson, Nathan Lyon and Geo. I. Covill, judges of election. In the Frankford precinct David D. Frazier was appointed Justice of the Peace; John Farquer, Constable; George Hunt, Assessor; D. D. Frazier, G. W. Sherman and Griffin Frazier, judges of election. In Austin precinct, Silas Dutcher was appointed Justice of the Peace; L. Watons, Constable; Orlando Wilder, Assessor; J. H. Burns, A. B. Vaughan and V. P. Lewis, judges of the election.

On the 30th of May, 1856, the second meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held. This meeting was attended by the full Board—Phillip Howell, chairman; George White and William Russell.

It was found that certain officers appointed at the previous meeting had failed to qualify, and in consequence of this Sylvester Smith was appointed Justice of the Peace in the Austin precinct; Washington Mason, Assessor, and Charles Ferris, Constable.

July 7, 1856, the Commissioners again met, with Phillip Howell, chairman; George White and William Russell, present. At this time a petition was presented from W. B. Spencer and others, asking that a new election precinct be created under the name of Le Roy, to comprise township 101, range 14 west. The petition was granted and the following officers were appointed for the new precinct: Samuel P. Bacon, Justice of the Peace; William B. Spencer, constable; and Henry Edmunds, S. P. Bacon and W. B. Spencer, Judges of election.

At the same session the precinct of "Red Rock" was created in response to a petition from John L. Johnson and others. It then embraced the north half of township 103, and the whole of township 104, ranges 17 and 18. The following officers were appointed: Moses Mapes, Andrew Brown and Charles F. Hardy, Judges of election; Chas. F. Hardy, Justice of the Peace; and Hilliard Tilton, Constable. Opposite this entry, regarding the creation of Red Rock, on the record, is written the word "error;" but as nothing is found in the record to contradict the entry, it is here presented.

Several school districts were created at this time, and the first bills against Mower county were allowed. The first bill was that of Lewis Patchin for \$19 for services as road commissioner.

From a report made to the Board it is learned that in 1856 the taxable real and personal property in the county was as follows: Frankford district—personal property \$24,473, real property, \$233,855; High Forest district—personalty, \$17,257; realty, \$77,743; Austin precinct—personalty, \$12,-

132; realty, \$92,072. Total in county, \$457,533. The amount of tax levied by the Commissioners was \$2,287.60. The amount of orders issued to defray the expenses of the county was \$1,753.00.

The County Commissioners selected for 1857 were George H. Bemis, William B. Spencer and Horace B. Blodgett. The first meeting of this board was held on January 6, 1857, at the village of Frankford, when George H. Bemis was chosen chairman. After organizing the board adjourned until the following day, when they again met.

The county seat question came up and H. B. Blodgett offered the following resolution, which was adopted: "*That, whereas,* the act of the Territorial Legislature of Minnesota, of A. D. 1856, made it the duty of the commissioners appointed under the provisions of said act to locate the county seat of the county of Mower, and,

WHEREAS, It does not appear upon the records of the doings of said commissioners on the first Monday in January, A. D. 1857, that any such location was made, or any place provided for the transaction of the county business according to law; therefore,

*Resolved,* That we do hereby locate the county seat of said Mower county at the village of Austin, on section 3, in township 102, range 18, west, until otherwise provided by law. This entry is signed by George H. Bemis, chairman of the board, and Joseph Badger, Deputy Register.

At this session a resolution was passed detaching from the Red Rock precinct, that territory lying west of the Cedar river.

In March, 1857, the County Commissioners engaged the office of A. S. Everest, in Austin, to be used as an office for the Register of Deeds, and a place of meeting for the board.

At the same meeting Ormanzo Allen was appointed the first County Attorney for Mower county.

In the meantime additional election precincts had been created under the names of Six Mile Grove, Brownsdale, Madison, Cedar City and Hamilton.

On the 6th of July, 1857, the county seat question again occupied the attention of the board, and the following entry, which explains itself, was made upon the records:

"Pursuant to an act during the eighth session of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota, convened on the 7th day of January, and adjourned on the 7th of March, 1857, granting the legal voters of the county of Mower, the privilege of permanently establishing the county seat of said county, by an election to be held for that purpose on June 1, 1857; and,

WHEREAS, It appearing by a canvass of the votes cast at said election, that a majority of the votes were cast for the location of the county seat on Davidson's addition to Austin.

*Resolved*, That we, the commissioners of said county of Mower, at this our regular session, July 6, 1857, in accordance with the wishes of a majority of the legal voters of said county, as expressed by the election, do hereby locate the county seat of Mower county on block 23, in Davidson's addition to Austin, as said addition appears on record in the office of the Register of Deeds of Mower county."

The total valuation of real and personal property is stated as being \$1,108,304.

The board of County Commissioners for 1858, consisting of George H. Bemis, W. B. Spencer and C. F. Hardy. Mr. Bemis was again elected chairman.

On January 5, 1858, the resignation of M. K. Armstrong as County Surveyor, was tendered the board.

On the 16th of April, 1858, the County Commissioners took up the matter of township organization. The various townships were named as follows:

Township	101,	Range	14.....	LeRoy
"	101,	"	15.....	Lodi
"	101,	"	16.....	Adams
"	101,	"	17.....	Nevada
"	101,	"	18.....	Lyle
"	102,	"	14.....	Andover
"	102,	"	15.....	Providence
"	102,	"	16.....	York
"	102,	"	17.....	Brooklyn
"	102,	"	18.....	Austin
"	103,	"	14.....	Frankford
"	103,	"	15.....	Poplar Grove
"	103,	"	16.....	Grand Meadow
"	103,	"	17.....	Red Rock
"	103,	"	18.....	Lansing
"	104,	"	14.....	Hamilton West
"	104,	"	15.....	Farmington
"	104,	"	16.....	Beaubien
"	104,	"	17.....	Waltham
"	104,	"	18.....	Udolpho

At that time Lansing, Austin and Lyle, had distinct and separate organizations for township purposes. The following annexations were made for township business. The north half of Waltham and north half of Beaubien were annexed to Udolpho.

The south half of Waltham and Beaubien, and all of Grand Meadow, were attached to Red Rock.

The township of York was annexed to Brooklyn.

The township of Adams was annexed to Nevada.

The township of Lodi, and the south half of Providence and Andover were attached to LeRoy.

The township of Poplar Grove, and the north half of Providence and Andover was annexed to Frankford.

The north tier of sections in the town of

Frankford was annexed to Hamilton West.

After this there seems to be a skip in the record, and nothing is found for the year 1859.

In 1860 the Board consisted of Ormanzo Allen, Chairman, C. F. Hardey and S. P. Bacon.

In September, 1860, D. B. Johnson, Jr., resigned the office of County Auditor. Ormanzo Allen resigned as Chairman of the Board, and was appointed Auditor. S. P. Bacon was elected Chairman of the Board. J. Stewart was elected Commissioner to fill vacancy.

On New Year's Day, 1861, the Board of County Commissioners, for the ensuing year met and qualified. The members were Milo Frary, Samuel Loomis and J. Stewart. The Board organized by the election of Milo Frary, chairman.

On the 7th of January, 1862, the Commissioners convened for the sixth annual session. At this time the Board consisted of G. T. Angell, R. C. Heath and G. H. Bemis. The last named was elected chairman.

In February, 1862, the name of Brooklyn township was changed to Canton. At the same time a petition was presented from the legal voters of township 103, range 15, asking that the territory be organized as Grand Meadow township. The petition was granted.

On the 13th of August, 1862, a special meeting of the Board was held, at which it was "resolved, that \$50.00 be paid to each and every volunteer who should, before August 20, 1862, enlist in the sixth, seventh or eighth Minnesota Regiments and be ac-

credited to Mower county." Later the time was extended to October 1, 1862.

In September the following school examiners were appointed by the board: H. I. Parker, for the first commissioner district; Richard Hoppin, for the second; and A. J. Harris, for the third.

The seventh annual session of the Board began on the 6th of January, 1863. The Board was composed of R. C. Heath, G. T. Angell and Alanson Beach, the latter being the newly elected member. Mr. Beach was elected chairman for the ensuing year. The second day of the session the Board divided the county into military districts as follows: 1st, to be composed of the townships of Adams and Nevada; 2nd, Lyle, Windom and Austin; 3rd, Lansing; 4th, Red Rock and Udolpho; 5th, Pleasant Valley and Grand Meadow; 6th, Racine; 7th, Frankford and Bennington; 8th, LeRoy.

Bennington township was ordered organized at the same time.

In September, 1863, the Commissioners appointed the following school examiners: J. B. Tallman, C. F. Hardy and Sackett Sears.

On the 5th of January, 1864, the Board convened for the eighth annual session. Charles N. Stimson had been elected to succeed R. C. Heath, so the Commissioners for the ensuing year were Alanson Beach, W. B. Spencer and C. N. Stimson. Alanson Beach was elected chairman for the ensuing year.

J. B. Tallman was appointed superintendent of common schools of Mower county, at an annual salary of \$100; to hold his office one year from September 1, 1864.

On May 2, 1864, the Board of Commissioners voted "to allow each volunteer soldier who had gone into the service of the United States and been accredited to Mower county, the sum of \$100; and for each veteran soldier who has gone or may go, \$100 more; provided that no bounty shall be issued to deserters; that the amounts already drawn as bounty be deducted from the \$100; provided further, that no soldier who has been discharged from service shall receive a bounty, unless he has been permanently disabled while in service." "Provided further, that where towns have during the last year paid a bounty of \$100 to soldiers, the bounty from Mower county shall be paid to the towns instead of the soldiers; or if the said towns have paid soldiers any fraction of the \$100, then the town shall receive the fraction and the soldiers the balance."

January 3, 1865, the board convened pursuant to law for its ninth annual session. W. E. Harris had been elected commissioner to succeed W. B. Spencer, so that the board for the ensuing year was composed of Alanson Beach, C. N. Stimson and W. E. Harris. No record is found of the election of a chairman.

In September, 1865, Ormanzo Allen tendered his resignation as County Auditor, which was accepted, and H. M. Allen was appointed to fill the vacancy.

At about the same time Charles N. Stimson, one of the commissioners sent in his resignation, and the Judge of Probate, Register of Deeds and County Auditor appointed C. F. Hardy, of Red Rock township, to fill the vacancy.

J. B. Tallman was appointed County Su-

perintendent of schools, for one year, commencing January 1, 1866. His salary was fixed at \$300 per year.

C. J. Shortt, the County Attorney, was allowed an annual salary of \$100.

At the annual meeting which commenced January 2, 1866, there were present Alanson Beach, C. F. Hardy and William E. Harris. Messrs. Beach and Hardy were the newly elected members. Alanson Beach was chosen chairman for the ensuing year. The first business to come before the board was the offering of a reward for the apprehension of Patrick McEntee, who December 18, 1865, had murdered I. W. Padden. A reward of \$400 was offered.

At this session the board voted to allow A. B. Morse, Charles E. White and Thomas Talbot, the sum of \$50 each, as soldiers' bounty, their names not appearing upon the Adjutant General's list of credits.

At the same time township 104, range 17, and the west half of township 104, range 16, was set off as Waltham township, and civil organization was authorized.

On the 5th of September, 1866, Sherman Page, Esq., of Austin, was appointed Superintendent of Schools. His salary was fixed at \$400 per annum.

On the 1st of January, 1867, the board of County Commissioners met in annual session pursuant to law, at the Auditor's office in Austin. E. J. Stimson, the Commissioner-elect succeeding C. F. Hardy, qualified and took his seat. The board for the year consisted of Alanson Beach, William E. Harris and E. J. Stimson. Alanson Beach was elected chairman for the ensuing year.

In September, Sherman Page was re-ap-

pointed Superintendent of Schools. His salary was fixed at the same amount as in the preceding year.

January 7, 1868, the board met for their twelfth annual session. At this time the members were Alanson Beach, E. J. Stimson and Joseph McKnight. The last named was the member-elect succeeding William E. Harris. Mr. Stimson was elected chairman, but in April resigned and A. Beach was elected.

At this session the board divided the county into five commissioner districts in place of the former three, it being found that there were a sufficient number of votes to entitle a representation on the county board of two additional members. The districts as then set off comprised territory as follows:

District No. 1, embraced Udolpho, Red Rock, Waltham and Pleasant Valley townships.

District No. 2, embraced Racine, Frankford and Grand Meadow townships.

District No. 3, was composed of Adams, LeRoy and Bennington townships.

District No. 4, embraced Lyle, Nevada and Windom townships.

District No. 5, embraced Austin and Lansing townships.

At the same session the board directed the Sheriff to offer a reward of \$500 each for the apprehension of Oliver Potter and William Kemp, two of the supposed murderers of Chauncey Knapp.

At the March session, 1868, D. P. Putney and George W. Bishop, members-elect from the newly created districts, appeared and qualified.

At the same meeting a committee, con-

sisting of J. McKnight and G. W. Bishop, was appointed to examine farms that had been offered the county as a poor farm. This matter culminated on the 14th of March, when it was voted to accept Mr. Caswell's proposition to sell his farm to the county for a poor farm, and also to buy eighty acres of W. Hayes, adjoining the Caswell farm, at \$23 per acre.

On April 9th it was resolved "that the Register of Deeds be instructed to take the necessary steps to transfer all records of deeds and mortgages (not satisfied) now recorded in Houston county, Minnesota, on lands lying in Mower county, to the records of this county."

At this meeting bids were received for the erection of a new county building, and that of D. J. Tubbs being the lowest, the contract was awarded to him in the sum of \$6,450. A building committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Beach, Stimson and Bishop. The building was to be completed September 5, 1868.

On the 1st of September the commissioners passed a resolution declaring that they had the greatest confidence in the integrity and efficiency of the county officials.

In October, Sheldon T. Otis was appointed County Superintendent of Schools for the ensuing year.

On the 5th of January, 1869, the board met in annual session. Alanson Beach, D. P. Putney and George W. Bishop, commissioners-elect, qualified. The members holding over were Joseph McKnight and E. J. Stimson. Alanson Beach was chosen chairman for the ensuing year.

On March 13, 1869, Sylvester Smith re-

signed the office of County Treasurer, and Solomon Snow, the Treasurer-elect, was appointed to fill the unexpired term.

On the 4th of January 1870, the Board convened for their annual session, with Alanson Beach, G. W. Bishop, D. P. Putney and J. McKnight, members holding over, present. John P. Williams, the member-elect from the first district, qualified and took his seat with the Board. Alanson Beach was unanimously chosen Chairman for the ensuing year.

In May, 1870, the township of Dexter was created and ordered organized. It embraced Congressional township 103, range 16.

At the same time township 102, range 16, was set off and ordered organized as Beach township.

In December, 1870, H. E. Tanner presented his credentials as member-elect of the Board, and qualified. He succeeded Mr. Williams.

On the 3rd of January, 1871, the Board met in annual session, pursuant to law. At this time the following named gentlemen were members: Alanson Beach, H. E. Tanner, C. J. Felch, G. W. Bishop and E. F. McKee. Alanson Beach was chosen Chairman for the ensuing year. In February, G. W. Bishop resigned, and was succeeded by W. M. Howe.

On the 26th of June, 1871, a special meeting of the Board was held, at which the following resolutions were passed:

"It having been shown by the investigations now being made in the Auditor's and Treasurers' offices of this county, that a large amount of money has been collected into the county treasury by Sylvester Smith, late Treasurer of Mower county, previous to the

year A. D., 1870, and not paid over by him to the proper offices of said county, and that he has converted said money to his own use; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That legal proceedings be immediately instituted against said Smith, to collect said moneys for the said county, and the Chairman of this Board be authorized to take such measures as he deem best in the matter."

This was a matter which for a number of years agitated the county. In justice to Mr. Smith, although the matter is treated at length in another chapter, it should be stated in this connection that his honor and integrity came out unscathed from the long and bitter litigation which followed.

In September, L. Bourgard, presented his resignation as County Attorney, and E. O. Wheeler was appointed to fill the vacancy.

On the 2nd of January, 1872, the Board met in annual session. A. C. Bisbee, Commissioner-elect from the fourth district, qualified. The Board for the ensuing year was composed of C. J. Felch, W. M. Howe, H. E. Tanner, E. F. McKee and A. C. Bisbee. Organization was effected by the election of C. J. Felch, Chairman.

The annual meeting for 1873 commenced on the 7th of January. H. E. Tanner had been re-elected from the first district, so the Board remained as before, the members being C. J. Felch, W. M. Howe, A. C. Bisbee, E. F. McKee and H. E. Tanner. C. J. Felch was elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

On September 3, 1873, township 104, range 16, was set off and ordered organized as the civil township "Stanton."

Clayton township was created at the same time, comprising township 102, range 15.

On January 6, 1874, the board met again in annual session. C. J. Felch had been re-elected. The members holding over were W. M. Howe, H. E. Tanner, A. C. Bisbee and James Grant. C. J. Felch was elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

On the 19th of March, 1874, E. F. Morgan, of LeRoy township, was appointed Superintendent of Schools for the ensuing year.

In July, Lafayette French was appointed County Attorney to fill a vacancy.

At the same meeting in response to a circular from the Governor, the board appropriated \$500 from the county funds, for the relief of the grasshopper sufferers.

On January 5, 1875, the board of commissioners met in annual session, with the following as its members: C. J. Felch, H. E. Tanner, James Grant, Wm. Richards and R. J. French. C. J. Felch was elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

The board of county commissioners for 1876, was composed of C. J. Felch, William Richards, James Grant, A. J. French and F. W. Kimball. William Richards was elected chairman of the board at the annual meeting January 4, 1876.

On the 14th of June, 1876, the following resolution was adopted by the board of county commissioners:

*Resolved*, That the sum of \$100 or so much thereof as may be necessary be set apart for the purpose of collecting and preparing a statistical history of Mower county, in accordance with the proclamation of the President.

Messrs. Richards and French were appointed a committee to carry out the intention of the board.

The annual session for 1877 began on the

2nd of January. At this time the members were William Richards, A. J. French, F. W. Kimball, G. W. Allen and W. B. Spencer. Wm. Richards was elected chairman for the ensuing year. During the summer 1877, O. C. La Bar succeeded Commissioner Kimball.

For the year 1878, the Board consisted of William Richards, G. W. Allen, W. B. Spencer, O. C. La Bar and M. M. Trowbridge. William Richards was elected chairman on January 1, 1878, for the ensuing year.

The annual session for 1879 began January 7th, when the Board organized by the election of William Richards, chairman. The Board was composed of William Richards, O. C. LaBar, G. W. Allen, W. B. Spencer and M. M. Trowbridge.

P. T. McIntyre, in August, 1879, was appointed County Treasurer to succeed I. Ingmundson, deceased.

In 1880, O. W. Case, M. M. Trowbridge, O. C. La Bar, William Richards and W. B. Mitson served as the Board of Commissioners.

O. W. Case died very suddenly at the Fleck House, of heart disease. At the time he was attending to official duties, at the March session of the County Board. The Commissioners passed the following resolutions, regarding his sudden taking off, from out their midst:

*Resolved*: "Whereas it has pleased an all wise Providence to remove from our midst, by death, O. W. Case, an honored and worthy member of our County Board, and for many years a resident of the county and

WHEREAS, We regard the death of one of our most highly respected members as a calamity to be deeply deplored, and a loss to

the county of a faithful and efficient officer, therefore

*Resolved*, That we bow in humble submission to the Divine will, and that we take this method of expressing our sorrow at the loss of our fellow member, and hereby extend our sympathies to the family and friends in this, their sad bereavement."

William Richards, a member of the Board that year, was chairman.

On January 6, 1880, the Board met in regular session, with the following named as members: Wm. Richards, M. M. Trowbridge, O. C. La Bar, O. W. Case and W. B. Mitson. Mr. Richards was chosen chairman. Mr. Case died in May, 1880, and Charles L. Schroeder, of Racine, was appointed to fill the vacancy.

On January 4th, 1881, the Board met and organized for the ensuing year, by electing O. C. La Bar chairman for the ensuing year. The members of the Board of Commissioners at this time were: O. C. La Bar, W. B. Mitson, R. A. Donaldson, O. Ayers and Hans C. Anderson.

The board for 1882 was composed of W. B. Mitson, H. C. Anderson, Oscar Ayers, J. B. Graves and R. A. Donaldson. W. B. Mitson was elected chairman for the ensuing year.

At the annual session which began January 2, 1883, the following were the members: Oscar Ayers, H. C. Anderson, J. B. Graves, C. L. Schroeder and John Gilligan. Oscar Ayers was chosen chairman for the ensuing year.

On New Year's day, 1884, the board convened for their annual session. Oscar Ayers was elected chairman for the ensuing year. The members were: Oscar Ayers, H. C. An-

derson, J. B. Graves, C. L. Schroeder and John Gilligan.

The following statement as copied from the County Auditor's books, shows the financial condition of Mower county, January 1, 1884:

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand May 1, 1883.....	\$23,055.75
Auditor's duplicates.....	24,682.52
Grand duplicates.....	44,788.56
Current state fund.....	4,740.30
School land, principal and interst..	9,025.50
City of Austin court house fund..	6,000.00
Fines.....	145.40
Produce from poor farm.....	225.44
Probate court fees.....	130.40
Interest on deposits.....	363.63
Licenses.....	100.00
Delinquent property tax.....	257.33
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$113,687.06</b>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Orders and warrants.....	\$40,207.38
Redemptions.....	4,676.43
School districts.....	29,454.37
Towns.....	14,197.18
State apportionments.....	4,741.22
S. M. R. R. interest.....	210.00
Cash on hand year's end.....	10,559.97
School lands, principal and int... ..	9,640.51
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$113,687.06</b>

OTHER OFFICIAL MATTER—MATRIMONIAL.

In the early history of Mower county the marriage ceremony was not performed in that grand style which characterizes our present age. Then no tinted wedding cards, with the invitation printed in the letters of gold were seen; no royally dressed bride and bridegroom made their appearance before the hymeneal altar, in the austere presence of priest or clergyman. Most of the marriage vows were solemnized before the pio-

near Justice of the Peace, whose hearth stone was sheltered by the logs of a rude, though cozy and comfortable cabin. Here was found genuine hospitality. And who dare say that the hearts and lives thus united in these rude cabin homes, were not as closely and lastingly united as are those of modern pomp and show, who celebrate their wedding occasions in expensive mansions, and have access to the costliest of bridal chamber? The newly married couple usually went to "keeping house" in a log cabin, and awaited the future tide of their good fortune to provide for them a more spacious and comfortable residence. Their parents were plain, common sense people, and the young folks generally were imbued with the same attributes which had gifted their fathers and mothers.

They were willing to begin house-keeping in a style corresponding to their means, trusting to the future for larger houses and finer surroundings.

It would doubtless be of some interest in this connection to give the record of marriages for the first ten or twenty years, after the settlement of Mower county, but they are too numerous, therefore only the names of those who were married, as shown by the records, from the first down to 1860, inclusive, will appear; and then the total number for each year thereafter will be given.

The first marriage performed under authority of a license issued by Mower county, took place July 19, 1857. The parties were Robert B Tift and Anna Eliza Crumen. Then licenses were given as follows:

1857—Isaac Nuteson and Torz Johnson, September 22.

1858—Horace Beers and Martha Tomlinson, August 25.

Samuel G. Hartford and Cornelia Backland, November 9.

William Buckland and Mary Priest, November 9.

John R. Dayton and Delight Weston, May 7.

Henry H. Shook and Emily L. Partelo, February 13.

Benjamin S. Shorn and Celista M. Wilcox, October 26.

Hiram Miller and Nancy Vaughan, November 11.

Thomas Alred and Sarah A. Tickney, February 12.

1859—Ransome Niles and Ruth A. King, February 26.

Helga Inkom and Bergitile Sey, March 10.

A. V. Ellis and Ellen Quoin, April 26.

W. W. Smith and Mary Padden, January 10.

Seth Munson and Adelia A. Bailey, April 6.

Warren C. West and Lucy H. Myres, December 8.

James McIntyre and Martha Vandawaker, February 26.

R. L. Elder and Mary Frazier, November 20.

Ole Oleson and Mary Ann Caldwell, February 26.

N. P. Hall and Fannie M. Martin, February 26.

Samuel Belder and Harriet Frazier, November 20.

Benjamin Harper and Annie Lewis, March 27.

Freeman N. Drown and Mary A. Devlin, March 15.

Nathan Owen and R. Bates, February 26.  
I. B. Yates and Pluma Morrill, January 21.  
Simon D. Troy and Marie Halpin, November 20.

Giles Jones and Jennette Vargison, June 15.

Quincy A. Trusdell and Adaline Slocum, January 20.

Mark Livermore and Persilla Anderson, January 20.

W. T. Manderville and Clarissa Davidson, December 16.

Oliver J. Beemis and Elizabeth Vandergrift.

S. W. Rice and Lucinda Slocum, November 2.

W. S. Kimball and Sarah Rice, February 26.

1860—A. B. Sizer and Lucy Grover, October 13.

D. Lamb and Lorinda Jones, September 12.

James Goslin and Z. Beach, March 22.

John W. Tower and Sarah Dunham, January 29.

William N. Bean and Hannah M. Hayward, May 12.

Timothy F. Goslin and Ann Watkins, May 2.

Simpson McKibben and Harriet Douglass, April 13.

Gordon M. Frost and Fanny W. Ward, September 18.

Stephen Douglas and Jane E. Donavin, May 2.

Albert Gallaway and Rosetta Carter, December 19.

James Messers and Mary Jane Ogden, January 15.

Hugh Mills and Abbie Sargeant, March 26.

Ole Mickelson and Julia Lewis, May 6.

Charles Chapin and Jennie Woodson, December 19.

William Shaw and Carintha Williams, November 29.

William Brooks and Jerusha Denny, March 3.

Jessie B. Johnson and Ellen McNeill, October 31.

Stephen M. Niles and Celistia M. Tift, May 2.

The following table shows the total number of marriage licenses issued in each year down to 1884:

1857.....	2
1858.....	8
1859.....	23
1860.....	18
1861.....	17
1862.....	13
1863.....	24
1864.....	33
1865.....	34
1866.....	61
1867.....	70
1868.....	77
1869.....	73
1870.....	66
1871.....	65
1872.....	135
1873.....	116
1874.....	136
1875.....	139
1876.....	147
1877.....	131
1878.....	154
1879.....	189
1880.....	128
1881.....	126
1882.....	165
1883.....	101

Total.....2,251

It appears from the above that there were more marriages in the year 1879 than during any other one year since the settlement of the county—there being 189, or thirty-five more than any other year.

CENSUS.

The total population of Mower county at the time the census of 1860 was taken was 3,216. Of this number 1,548 were females, and 1,668 were males. There were 689 families in the county and 649 dwelling houses. In speaking of Mower county, as compared with the balance of the State, the *Minnesota Courier*, in its issue on September 11, 1861, said:

“Our population is unmixed—white—without any statistical taint of inferior lineage to stain its Caucasian purity. The county numbers one fifty-third or 1.87 per cent. of the whole population of the State, having an area of 708 square miles. Our population has therefore a density of 4.34 persons to the square mile. It ranks the twentieth in size—the twenty-second in absolute population—and the twenty-fifth in density—among the counties.

“We have but forty unoccupied dwellings, about one-half our share of the deserted tenements of the State. The inference is that the town site fever, however it may have raged in the bosoms of our citizens, did not break out in eruptions of small shanties as badly as in other parts of the State. Indeed we have fewer houses in proportion to the actual number of occupants than the average of the State, for the latter has 4.16 persons to one dwelling and 4.64 persons to the family, while Mower county has 4.66 persons to one dwelling and 4.95 persons to the family. We have 83 less dwellings and 44 less families than an equal distribution would have given us. As this is a prairie county, the necessity of economy in the use of lumber shows itself plainly in these figures.

“We want 120 females to equalize the sexes in the county. Though this seems a large disparity, it is, in fact, less than our share of the common deficiency.

“But as to nativities we have not husbanded our resources in this particular as well as less favored localities. We should show a roll of over 58 per cent. more native born Minnesotians than appears on the returns. But as the marriage column foots up over the average, we seem to be taking energetic measures to repair the deficiency. Our foreign born population is about 25 per cent. less than the average, and our American, exclusive of those born in Minnesota, is about 25 per cent. more than the average.

“Education flourishes in Mower county. Our school attendance is 68 per cent. greater than the average, and the census pays a high compliment to the intelligence of our population in setting down the number of adults who cannot read and write at only 14, less than one-fifth our proper share of the mass of ignorance in their important rudiments.”

ABSTRACT OF THE CENSUS OF MOWER COUNTY FOR 1860.

TOWNSHIPS.	Total Population.	Females.	Males.	Number Dwellings.	Born in Minnesota.	Born in United States.	Foreign Born.	Number over 21 who can't read and write.
Adams.....	117	82	95	43	25	44	108	4
Austin.....	462	225	237	90	63	285	114	
Brooklyn.....	189	92	97	40	30	106	53	
Frankford.....	485	223	262	85	72	292	121	7
Lansing.....	357	170	187	74	55	223	79	
LeRoy.....	365	190	175	72	52	255	58	1
Lyle.....	186	93	93	41	27	141	18	
Nevada.....	173	76	97	33	39	53	91	2
Pleasant Valley..	78	38	40	19	11	59	8	
Racine.....	361	170	191	75	59	246	56	
Red Rock.....	222	106	116	46	25	158	39	
Udoipho.....	161	82	78	29	21	82	58	
Total.....	3262	1548	1668	649	479	1984	803	14

## CENSUS CONTINUED.

For the year—	1865	1870	1875
Austin City.....	...	2,040	2,601
Austin Township....	760	592	670
Adams.....	522	576	873
Bennington.....	312	257	433
Clayton.....	...	...	119
Dexter.....	...	120	119
Frankford.....	476	557	751
Grand Meadow.....	206	490	575
Lyle Village.....	...	...	209
Lyle Township.....	310	480	617
LeRoy.....	441	1,055	1,096
Lansing.....	456	808	765
Lodi.....	...	...	296
Marshal.....	...	100	188
Nevada.....	364	677	813
Pleasant Valley.....	225	320	343
Racine.....	570	819	893
Red Rock.....	440	650	711
Sargent.....	...	...	138
Udolpho.....	322	383	502
Windom.....	...	405	604
Waltham.....	...	180	289
Totals.....	5,279	10,509	13,605

## U. S. CENSUS—1880.

Adams.....	912
Austin.....	544
Austin City.....	2,305
Bennington and Clayton.....	905
Dexter.....	479
Grand Meadow.....	996
Frankford.....	763
LeRoy.....	1,175
Lansing.....	807
Lodi.....	571
Lyle.....	805
Marshall.....	1,197
Pleasant Valley.....	536
Sargent.....	516
Racine.....	807
Red Rock.....	795
Windom and Nevada.....	1,642
Waltham and Udolpho.....	1,197
Total.....	15,307

## FIRST INSTRUMENTS RECORDED.

The first deed upon record in the books

of Mower county, Minnesota Territory, is one from Alexander and Mariah Nigus, to Benedict J. Brown. The instrument bears the date of February 8, 1856. Both parties were living in the territory now comprising Austin township. The consideration expressed was described as the east half of the northeast quarter of section 2, township 102, range 18, containing eighty acres. The witnesses to the instrument were Velorous Lewis, Sylvester Smith, C. S. Prime and A. Y. Cady. It was acknowledged before Abner I Cady, a Justice of the Peace, and certified to by Amos Cummings, Clerk of Court, both in Mitchell county, Iowa.

The second deed on record was from Benedict J. Brown to W. W. and David L. Smith, conveying certain land for the consideration of \$25.00.

Among other early deeds recorded are the following transfers:

Benedict J. and Elizabeth Brown to Jeremiah B Yates and Velorous P. Lewis, dated March 17, 1856, conveying 120 acres of land on section 3, township 102, range 18, for \$1,000.

Joseph Robb to C. J. Felch, March 20, 1856, the southwest quarter of section 1, township 103, range 14, containing 160 acres; consideration \$450.

John D. Gregory to C. J. Felch, April 5, 1856, the southeast quarter of section 1, township 103, range 14, containing 160 acres; consideration \$450.

John Robinson to H. B. Caldwell, February 10, 1856, lots in the village of High Forest, for \$225. Also land in township 104, range 14; consideration \$250.

H. B. Caldwell to Miles B. Coon and

Charles Wilbor, April 23, 1856, a lot in High Forest; consideration \$65.

H. Gunderson to Neils Johnson, March 28, 1856, land in sections 26 and 35, township 104, range 16; consideration \$300.

M. Dulling to Claiborn Day, May 1, 1856; west half of northeast quarter of section 26, township 103, range 14, 80 acres; consideration \$200.

J. Gorman to Francis Teabout, March 28, 1856, the southeast quarter of section 25, township 103, range 14; consideration \$300.

Edwin M. Craig to William Russell, May 1, 1856, the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 6, township 104, range 14; consideration \$250.

Peter Burns to John Pettibone, March 7, 1856, 80 acres on section 11, township 103, range 18; consideration \$200.

Noah Lincoln to G. H. Knapp, May 15, 1856; consideration \$500; 157½ acres on section 3, township 104, range 14.

Gunder Neveson to Charles F. Hardy, May 14, 1856, 126 acres on sections 19 and 33, township 104, range 17.

Gunder Neveson to J. L. Johnson, May 14, 1856, 40 acres on section 32, township 104, range 17; consideration \$200.

Gunder Neveson to Hilliard Tilton, May 15, 1856, 40 acres on section 33, township 104, range 17; consideration \$—.

Among other early deeds recorded, without going so much into detail, are the following:

Sarah Clark to James Donaldson.

A. Nigus, W. W. Smith and Ralph Jordan to John Tift.

Edward Owens to Hugh Owens.

William Campfield, to Daniel L. Booth.

Henry K. White to John S. Pearson.

John W. Farquer to Griffin Frazier.

Thomas B. Stoddard to S. DeFrance.

John Robinson to Zophena H. Lake.

John Robinson to Thomas B. Stoddard.

John Robinson to Dugald D. Cameron.

Jacob Oleson to O. D. Critzer.

#### OFFICIAL VOTE

In this connection will be given the vote of Mower county, for every general election from 1860 to 1884, except that of 1862, the returns of which have been lost. Also those prior to 1861. However a complete list of the county officers who were elected to serve during these years, will be found herein:

#### ELECTION OCTOBER, 1856.

Register of Deeds—R. L. Kimball.

Treasurer—S. P. Bacon.

Sheriff—J. B. Yates.

Judge of Probate—A. B. Vaughan.

#### ELECTION, 1857.

Clerk of District Court.—J. E. Willard.

Treasurer—A. S. Everest.

#### ELECTION, 1858.

Register of Deeds—David Blakely.

Auditor—D. B. Johnson, Jr.

Sheriff—George Bishop.

County Attorney.—D. B. Johnson, Jr.

Judge of Probate—G. M. Cameron.

#### ELECTION, 1859.

Treasurer—T. J. Lake.

Auditor—Ormanzo Allen.

County Attorney—C. J. Shortt.

#### ELECTION, 1860.

Register of Deeds—Solomon Snow.

Sheriff—E. D. Fenton.

Clerk of the District Court—L. A. Sherwood.

Judge of Probate—Robert Lyle.

ELECTION OF OCTOBER 1861.

GOVERNOR.

Alexander Ramsey.....468  
E. O. Hamlin..... 88—380

LIEUT-GOVERNOR.

Ignatius Donnelly.....470—386  
— Cowan..... 84

SECRETARY OF STATE.

James H Baker.....472—387  
C. F. Buck..... 85

STATE TREASURER.

Charles Scheffer.....470—385  
— Fisher..... 85

STATE SENATOR.

— Clark.....350—141  
— Winters.....209

REPRESENTATIVE.

S. Bostwick.....319—116  
Sheffield.....203  
H. C. Rogers.....364—133  
H. H. Shook.....231

COUNTY TREASURER.

Sylvester Smith.....307— 67  
T. J. Lake.....240

CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT.

Lyman A. Sherwood.....348—140  
Oliver Somers.....208

COURT COMMISSIONER.

Robert Lyle.....343—127  
— Sargeant.....216

COUNTY ATTORNEY.

Calvin J. Shortt.....323— 95  
G. M. Cameron.....228

CORONER.

Ormanzo Allen.....360—159  
J. N. Wheat.....201

COMMISSIONERS.

R. P. Moorers.....  
R. C. Heath.....  
G. T. Angell.....

ELECTION NOVEMBER, 1862.

Register of Deeds—Solomon Snow.

Auditor—Ormanzo Allen.

Sheriff—E. D. Fenton.

Clerk of the District Court—L. A. Sherwood.

ELECTION NOVEMBER, 1863.

Governor—Stephen Miller, Rep., 376.

Lieutenant Governor—Chas. D. Sherwood Rep., 364.

Secretary of State—David Blakely, 360.

Auditor of State—Chas. McIlrath, 375.

State Treasurer—Chas. Sheffer, 372.

Attorney General—Gordon E. Cole, 372.

Clerk of Supreme Court—Geo. F. Potter, 439.

State Senator—B. D. Sprague, Rep.

Representatives in Legislature—R. Crane and A. Barlow, 369.

County Treasurer—Sylvester Smith, 385.

County Attorney—H. R. Davidson, 323.

Court Commissioner—J. E. Robinson, 370.

County Commissioner—C. N. Stimson, 94.

REPRESENTATIVES.

C. J. Felch, Union-Rep.....417—335  
D. B. Johnson, Jr., Union-Rep....417—335  
J. M. Wyckoff, Dem..... 82  
Amanda Sprague, Dem..... 82

COUNTY TREASURER.

Sylvester Smith, Union-Rep.....436—361  
Martin Litchfield, Dem..... 75

HISTORY OF MOWER COUNTY.

49

AUDITOR.

..... 418—333  
 ..... 85

CLERK OF COURT.

L. A. Sherwood, Union-Rep. .... 417—332  
 Jas. L. Clark, Dem. .... 85

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

First District—  
 Alanson Beach, Union-Rep. .... 177—148  
 Andrew Gremmel, Dem. .... 29

Second District—  
 C. F. Hardy, Union-Rep. .... 107

ELECTION NOVEMBER, 1864.

PRESIDENT.

Abraham Lincoln, Rep. .... 637—423  
 Geo. B. McClellan, Dem. .... 214

JUDGE OF FIFTH DISTRICT.

N. M. Donaldson, Rep. .... 573—314  
 Geo W. Batchelde, Dem. .... 259

REGISTER OF DEEDS.

S. Snow, Independent. .... 497—268  
 D. A. Hudson, Rep. .... 229  
 LeRoy Hathaway, Dem. .... 97

REPRESENTATIVES.

Crane, Rep. .... 525—236  
 Kidder, Independent. .... 289  
 Tuthill, Rep. .... 523—235  
 Collum, Independent. .... 288

ELECTION NOVEMBER, 1865.

GOVERNOR.

Gen. W. R. Marshall, Union-Rep. 411—912  
 H. M. Rice, Dem. .... 120

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

Thos. H. Armstrong, Union-Rep. 417—304  
 Capt. C. W. Nash, Dem. .... 113

SECRETARY OF STATE.

Liet.-Col. H. C. Rogers, U.-R. .... 417—303  
 Maj. J. R. Jones, Dem. .... 114

STATE TREASURER.

Charles Sheffer, Union-Rep. .... 412—293  
 Fr. Hyderstadt, Dem. .... 119

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Col. Wm. Colville, Union-Rep. .... 411—292  
 Wm. Lochren. .... 119

STATE SENATOR.

Samuel Lord, Union-Rep. .... 417—329

COUNTY TREASURER.

Sylvester Smith. .... 436— 36

CLERK OF THE COURT.

L. A. Sherwood. .... 417—332  
 Democratic Candidate. .... 85

ELECTION NOVEMBER 6, 1866.

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS.

William Windom, Rep. .... 572—430  
 R. A. Jones, Dem. .... 142

AUDITOR OF STATE.

Sherwood Hough, Rep. .... 531—399  
 Dennis Cavanaugh, Dem. .... 132

STATE SENATOR.

Samuel Lord, Rep. .... 586—586

REPRESENTATIVES.

D. B. Johnson, Jr., Rep. .... 548—428  
 W. W. Brownson, Dem. .... 120  
 C. J. Felch, Rep. .... 586—443  
 A. D. Brown. .... 143  
 A. B. Vaughan. .... 15

JUDGE OF PROBATE.

Ormanzo Allen, Rep. .... 591—471  
 John M. Vandegrift, Dem. .... 120

SHERIFF.

D. J. Tubbs, Rep. .... 556—427  
 J. B. Yates, Dem. .... 129

COUNTY AUDITOR.

H. M. Allen, Rep. .... 598—476  
 O. B. Morse, Dem. .... 112

## REGISTER OF DEEDS.

Solomon Snow, Rep.....588—471  
S. P. Stewart, Dem.....117

## COUNTY SURVEYOR.

J. P. Jones.....581—581

## COUNTY ATTORNEY.

E. O. Wheeler, Rep.....547—378  
A. A. Wright, Dem.....169

## COURT COMMISSIONER.

Ormanzo Allen, Rep.....581—451  
Armanda Sprague, Dem.....130  
H. R. Brown.....1

## CORONER.

Dr. O. Allen, Rep.....583—582  
Dr. W. C. Jones.....1

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Second District—  
E. J. Stimson, Rep.....179—135  
Mathew Rooney, Dem.....44

## ELECTION NOVEMBER, 1867.

## GOVERNOR.

William R. Marshall.....733—412  
C. E. Flandrau.....321

## LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

Thomas H. Armstrong.....654—330  
A. K. Maynard.....324

## SECRETARY OF STATE.

Henry C. Rogers.....756—456  
A. Cogswell.....300

## STATE TREASURER.

Emil Munch.....740—426  
J. Freidrich.....314

## ATTORNEY GENERAL.

F. R. E. Cornell.....741—427  
A. G. Chatfield.....314

## STATE SENATOR.

W. E. Harris.....707—402  
A. D. Brown.....305

## REPRESENTATIVES.

D. A. Shaw.....740  
E. K. Proper.....740  
O. H. Phillips.....310  
L. G. Stephenson.....309

## COUNTY TREASURER.

Sylvester Smith.....843—636  
Jacob Johnson.....207

## ELECTION NOVEMBER, 1868.

## PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT.

Grant and Colfax.....1,239—770  
Seymour and Blair.....469

## CONGRESSMAN.

M. S. Wilkinson.....1,229—759  
G. W. Batchelder.....470

## REPRESENTATIVES.

E. D. Proper.....1,230—760  
M. Edison.....470  
T. J. Hunt.....1,230  
A. C. Flanders.....47

## PROBATE JUDGE.

C. F. Hardy.....783—316  
O. B. Morse.....467  
J. P. Jones.....426

## SHERIFF.

A. Mallison.....838—148  
A. J. Hunt.....449  
James McKee.....390

## COUNTY AUDITOR.

H. M. Allen.....869—469  
J. M. Wyckoff.....374  
W. G. Telfer.....400

## REGISTER OF DEEDS.

L. R. Hathaway.....653—227  
J. T. Williams.....606  
G. A. Robison.....426

## SURVEYOR.

X. S. Burke.....701—234  
A. D. Brown.....467  
D. M. Gaskill.....419

COUNTY ATTORNEY.

C. J. Shortt.....788—318  
 G. M. Cameron.....470  
 J. E. Robinson.....425

COUNTY CORONER.

O. Allen.....814—348  
 P. C. Berry.....466  
 T. H. Sherwin.....412

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

District No. 4—  
 Alanson Beach.....145—105  
 H. H. Vail.....25  
 Jesse Rose.....40  
 District No. 5—  
 G. W. Bishop.....210—10  
 Thomas Gibson.....188  
 John S. Crandall.....200  
 District No. 2—  
 D. P. Putney.....105—9  
 T. J. Knox.....71  
 C. J. Felch.....96

ELECTION NOVEMBER 1869.

GOVERNOR.

Horace Austin.....952—595  
 George L. Otis.....357  
 Daniel Cobb.....21

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

William H. Yale.....959—606  
 J. A. Wiswell.....353  
 John H. Stevens.....18

SECRETARY OF STATE.

Hans Mattson.....958—605  
 T. G. Fladeland.....353  
 T. J. Thompson.....1  
 James E. Childs.....17

AUDITOR OF STATE.

Charles McIlrath.....957—601  
 Louis A. Evans.....356  
 J. S. Randolph.....18

STATE TREASURER.

Emil Munch.....959—605  
 Casper Baberich.....353  
 Robert Stewart.....18

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

F. R. E. Cornell.....959—607  
 Seagrave Smith.....352  
 J. Ham Davidson.....18

CHIEF JUSTICE SUPREME COURT.

C. G. Ripley.....958—605  
 Charles F. Flandrau.....353  
 E. O. Hamlin.....17

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT.

Sherwood Hough.....661—610  
 W. T. Bonniwell.....351  
 A. P. Connolly.....1

STATE SENATOR.

Samuel Lord.....918—526  
 E. H. Couse.....392  
 George W. Clark.....16

REPRESENTATIVES.

George M. Cameron.....615  
 L. E. Pearce.....564  
 H. A. Brown.....764  
 W. G. Telfer.....710  
 S. P. Bacon.....1  
 D. B. Johnson, Jr.....1

COUNTY TREASURER.

John S. Irgens.....778—237  
 John M. Wyckoff.....531

CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT.

Lyman A. Sherwood.....529  
 John F. Atherton.....649—120  
 Charles J. Paddock.....134

COURT COMMISSIONERS.

E. B. Clark.....554—1  
 .....553  
 E. O. Wheeler.....109

COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

Alfred Lounsbury.....36  
 F. A. Carl.....32  
 J. P. Williams.....102—66

## ELECTION NOVEMBER, 1870.

## CONGRESSMAN.

Mark H. Dunnell, Rep.	1012
C. F. Buck	545
William Windom	1
A. E. Peck	5
Ignatius Donnelly	3

## REPRESENTATIVES.

H. W. Page,	759
W. G. Telfer,	705
Alonzo Fairbanks,	805
A. E. Peck,	780
E. J. Kingsbury,	37
F. A. Carl,	38

## AUDITOR.

H. H. Shook,	791
J. P. Williams,	750
C. J. Paddock,	36

## REGISTER OF DEEDS.

J. D. Allen,	762
Geo. Robinson,	759
C. P. Kenyon,	53

## SHERIFF.

Allan Mollison,	827
A. E. Meigs,	713
J. J. Furlong,	24
D. J. Tubbs,	1

## JUDGE OF PROBATE.

L. N. Griffith,	773
Jesse Rose,	756
P. Enright,	36
G. M. Cameron,	1

## COUNTY ATTORNEY.

G. M. Cameron,	781
L. Bourgard,	755
Sherman Page,	1

## CORONER.

W. L. Hollister,	772
R. A. Barnes,	771
P. C. Berry,	37

## COUNTY SURVEYOR.

P. D. Vaughan,	778
G. W. Clough,	752
A. N. Converse,	38
A. Mollison,	1

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

First District.—	
H. E. Tanner,	151
E. S. Hoppin,	140
Second District.—	
C. J. Felch,	75
Wm. Buck,	57
Third District.—	
E. F. McKee,	154
W. B. Spencer,	149

When the board of canvassers met to canvass the election returns, those for the townships of Frankford, Grand Meadow and Nevada were rejected on account of being illegally returned.

## ELECTION NOVEMBER, 1871.

## GOVERNOR.

Horace Austin,	1,266—639
Winthrop Young,	627
Samuel Mayall,	1
W. L. Austin,	1
A. Lewis,	1

## LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

William H. Yale,	1,274—652
D. L. Buell,	622
W. A. Bently,	1

## SECRETARY OF STATE.

S. P. Jennison,	1,279—661
Erick Nelson Falk	618
J. Gilford,	1

## STATE TREASURER.

William Seeger,	1,276—658
Barney Vosburgh	618

## ATTORNEY GENERAL.

F. R. E. Cornell,	1,275—654
John L. McDonald	621
A. P. Jewell,	1

# HISTORY OF MOWER COUNTY.

53

## JUSTICES OF SUPREME COURT.

S. J. R. McMillan.	1,277—657
J. M. Berry,	1,277—660
Daniel Buck,	617
William Mitchell,	620
O. E. Hamlin,	1
S. J. Williams,	1

## JUDGE FIFTH DISTRICT.

Samuel Lord,	1,935
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## SENATOR.

Sherman Page,	978—100
W. H. Merrick,	878
E. H. Seeley,	2
I. N. Hawkins,	1

## REPRESENTATIVES.

J. T. Williams,	1,191—255
B. F. Langworthy,	884
J. M. Wyckoff,	936
L. E. Pearce	719
John Williams,	1
C. J. Shortt,	1

## COUNTY TREASURER.

John S. Irgens,	1,222—557
Christian Johnson,	665
L. N. Griffith,	1

## COUNTY ATTORNEY.

E. O. Wheeler,	1,094—300
G. M. Cameron,	794
E. B. Crane,	1

## COMMISSIONER FOURTH DISTRICT.

A. C. Bisbee,	196—123
Thomas Smith,	73

## COMMISSIONER FIFTH DISTRICT.

William M. Howe,	355—13
William Rutherford,	342

## ELECTION NOVEMBER, 1872.

## PRESIDENT.

U. S. Grant, Rep.,	1,435
Horace Greeley, Ind.,	586

## CONGRESSMAN.

M. H. Dunneil, Rep.,	1,475
M. S. Wilkinson, Dem.,	606

## STATE AUDITOR.

O. P. Whitcomb, Rep.,	1,438
Albert Sheffer, Dem.,	561
Scattering,	4

## CLERK OF SUPREME COURT.

Sherwood Hough, Rep.,	1,454
James George, Dem.,	551
Scattering,	1

## JUDGE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

Sherman Page, Rep.,	1,164
H. R. Wells, Dem.,	904
Wells,	1
Scattering,	2

## STATE SENATOR.

N. K. Noble, Rep.,	1,292
G. L. Henderson, Dem.,	763
W. W. Brownson,	20
Scattering,	1

## REPRESENTATIVES.

E. J. Stimson,	1,291
Ole O. Finhert,	1,248
Armanda Sprague,	44
L. E. Pierce,	795
P. F. Rooney,	776
N. K. Noble,	2
E. S. Stimson,	1
Scattering,	3

## COUNTY AUDITOR.

J. P. Williams,	1,276
B. J. VanValkenburgh,	814
Scattering,	12

## SHERIFF.

George Baird,	1,141
Peter Knutson,	733
H. J. Gillham,	139
H. Gillham,	31
Scattering,	18

## HISTORY OF MOWER COUNTY.

REGISTER OF DEEDS.		SECRETARY OF STATE.	
George W. Robinson,	1,258	John B. Stevens,	985—172
J. D. Allen,	817	S. P. Jennison,	813
J. B. Waddick,	32	STATE TREASURER.	
Scattering,	3	E. W. Dike,	999—183
COUNTY ATTORNEY.		Mons. Grinager,	813
E. O. Wheeler,	1,237	I. N. Sater,	33
G. M. Cameron,	815	ATTORNEY GENERAL.	
W. H. Cameron,	22	William P. Clough,	989—168.
Scattering,	6	George P. Wilson,	821
COUNTY SURVEYOR.		SENATOR.	
George W. Clough,	1,269	E. H. Wells,	1,117—528
O. B. Morse,	708	I. N. Hawkins,	689
A. D. Brown,	24	REPRESENTATIVES.	
Scattering,	1	Gunder Halverson,	1,178
PROBATE JUDGE.		A. E. Peck,	1,138
Jesse Rose,	1,198	W. B. Spencer,	645
T. W. Woodard,	861	J. R. Campfield,	655
J. M. Vandegrift,	21	COUNTY TREASURER.	
Woodard,	4	I. Ingmundson,	1,164—576
Scattering,	2	George C. Weed,	588
COURT COMMISSIONER.		CLERK OF THE COURTS.	
Lafayette French,	1,255	F. A. Elder,	996—210
J. M. Greenman,	817	Rolan Tisdell,	786
CORONER.		COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.	
R. A. Barnes,	1,256	Dist. No. 2.—	
J. B. Squires,	811	C. J. Felch,	194—61
A. D. Brown,	18	O. W. Case,	133
Scattering,	3	Dist. No. 3.—	
COUNTY COMMISSIONER.		James Grant,	266—199
H. E. Tanner,	346	E. A. Whitcomb,	67
C. J. Shortt,	94	ELECTION NOVEMBER, 1874.	
J. B. Graves,	4	CHIEF JUSTICE.	
ELECTION NOVEMBER, 1873.		S. J. R. McMillan,	1,215
GOVERNOR.		Wescott Wilkin,	948
ASASSOCIATE JUSTICE.		ASSOCIATE JUSTICE.	
Asa Barton,	943—71	F. R. E. Cornell,	1,217
C. K. Davis,	869	Wm. Lochren,	943
Samuel Mayall,	3	CONGRESSMAN.	
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.		M. H. Dunnell,	1,173
Ebenezer Ayers,	979—142	F. H. Waite,	959
A. Barto,	837		

# HISTORY OF MOWER COUNTY.

55

REPRESENTATIVES.

Chas. F. Greening,	1,226
J. S. Irgens,	1,324
S. P. Bacon,	956
O. W. Case,	803

REGISTER OF DEEDS.

W. M. Howe,	1,170
Christian Johnson,	963

SHERIFF.

R. O. Hall,	1,227
S. J. Sanborn,	931

JUDE OF PROBATE.

Samuel Harter,	1,137
John E. Robinson,	997

COUNTY ATTORNEY.

Lafayette French,	1,275
G. M. Cameron,	869

CORONER.

C. B. Thrall,	1,218
Dr. J. W. Corbitt,	937

COUNTY SURVEYOR.

G. H. Allen,	1,203
T. S. Kilgore,	956

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Fourth District—	
A. J. French,	151
I. M. Ray,	144
Fifth District—	
William Richards,	406
W. T. Wilkins,	383

ELECTION NOVEMBER, 1875.

GOVERNOR.

John S. Pillsbury, Republican,	1,063
D. L. Buell, Democratic Republican,	440
Scattering,	10

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

J. B. Wakefield Republican,	1,048
E. W. Durant, Democratic Rep.,	279
J. B. Tuttle, Anti-Monopolist,	179

CHIEF JUSTICE SUPREME COURT.

James Gilfillan, Republican,	981
Lafayette Emmett, Dem. Rep.,	393

SECRETARY OF STATE.

John S. Irgens, Republican,	1,042
A. Bierman, Dem. Rep.,	437
Scattering,	9

STATE AUDITOR.

O. P. Whitcomb, Republican,	1,041
P. H. Rahilly, Democratic Rep.,	455
Scattering,	9

STATE TREASURER.

William Pfænder, Republican,	1,011
Albert Scheffer, Dem. Rep.,	292
E. W. Dike, Anti-Monopolist,	207
Scattering,	10

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

G. P. Wilson, Republican,	787
R. A. Jones, Democratic Republican,	593
G. M. McCarthy, Anti-Monopolist,	119

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT.

S. H. Nichols, Republican,	1,052
A. A. McLeod, Dem. Rep.,	277
Sherwood Hough, Anti-Monopolist,	171
Scattering,	2

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER.

Wm. R. Marshall, Republican,	1,055
W. T. Bonniwell, Dem. Rep.,	283
A. J. Edgerton, Anti-Monopolist,	164
Scattering,	4

STATE SENATOR.

R. I. Smith, Republican,	915
O. W. Gibson, Democratic Rep.,	207
J. P. Williams, Independent,	178
A. J. B. Abbey, Independent,	195
Scattering,	4

REPRESENTATIVES.

H. F. Deming, Republican,	1,073—721
C. F. Greening, Republican,	958—505
Henry Webber, Anti-Monopolist,	453
M. B. Slocum, Anti-Monopolist,	352
Gunder Halverson,	98
Scattering,	3

## HISTORY OF MOWER COUNTY.

COUNTY TREASURER.  
I. Ingmundson, Republican, 1,196  
A. N. Converse, Anti-Monopolist, 303

COURT COMMISSIONER.  
Charles Smith, 840  
John Brophy, 93  
F. W. Kimball, 51

COUNTY COMMISSIONER.  
First District—  
F. W. Kimball, 205  
Daniel Williams, 46

ELECTION NOVEMBER, 1876.  
PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT.  
Hayes and Wheeler, 1,969—1,014  
Tilden and Hendricks, 955  
Cooper and Carey, 75

CONGRESSMAN.  
M. H. Durnell, 1,939—896  
E. C. Stacy, 1,043

REPRESENTATIVES.  
Adam J. Christie, 860  
H. H. Shook, 923  
S. J. Sanborn, 1,869  
H. A. Brown, 1,396  
D. S. B. Mollison, 495  
W. D. Peck, 378

COUNTY AUDITOR.  
P. T. McIntyre, 2,061—1,171  
J. B. Viall, 890

REGISTER OF DEEDS.  
William M. Howe, 1,199—29  
C. A. Roy, 1,170  
M. Krebsbach, 610

SHERIFF.  
R. O. Hall, 1,715—651  
Colos Fentan, 1,064  
S. Y. Paddock, 191

COUNTY ATTORNEY.  
Lafayette French, 1,490—31  
J. M. Greenman, 14.59

PROBATE JUDGE.  
G. M. Cameron, 1,597—257  
Samuel Harter, 1,340

COUNTY CORONER.  
Dr. R. A. Barnes, 1,815—832  
Dr. W. L. Hollister, 983  
Dr. O. W. Gibson, 173

COUNTY SURVEYOR.  
G. H. Allen, 1,976—1,082  
J. M. Weiser, 894

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.  
District No. 2—  
F. Rafferty, 136  
G. W. Allen, 199—63  
District No. 3—  
D. B. Coleman, 200  
W. B. Spencer, 318—118

ELECTION NOVEMBER, 1877.  
GOVERNOR.  
John S. Pillsbury, Republican, 1,375—385  
W. L. Ranning, Dem. and G'b., 990

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.  
James B. Wakefield, Rep., 1,367—817  
William Meighen, Greenbacker, 550  
A. A. Ames, 451

SECRETARY OF STATE.  
John S. Irgens, Rep., 1,426—924  
A. E. Rice, Greenbacker, 502  
P. F. Lindholm, Democrat, 435

STATE TREASURER.  
William Pfænder, Rep., 1,412—910  
Isaac Staples, Greenbacker, 502  
John F. Meagher, Dem., 452

ATTORNEY GENERAL.  
Geo. P. Wilson, Rep. & G'b., 1,893—1,418  
J. R. Jones, Democrat, 475

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER.  
Wm. Marshall, Republican, 1,403—905  
Ebenezer Ayers, Greenbacker, 488  
H. W. Hill, Democrat, 498

HISTORY OF MOWER COUNTY.

SENATOR.

George W. Clough, 1,457—809  
 E. O. Wheeler, 648  
 L. N. Griffith, 240

REPRESENTATIVES.

S. J. Sanborn, 1,400  
 H. K. Volstad, 1,279  
 J. L. Gaskill, 586  
 Ole Monson, 504  
 J. M. Larabee, 478  
 John Muncy, 465

COUNTY TREASURER.

I. Ingmundson, 1,563—930  
 S. Y. Paddock, 633  
 O. B. Morse, 185

CLERK OF THE COURT.

A. W. Kimball, 1,331—756  
 F. A. Elder, 575  
 J. B. Viall, 475

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

A. H. Tuttle, 1,428—578  
 N. M. Holbrook, 850

COURT COMMISSIONER.

C. J. Shortt, 1,240—587  
 A. J. Hunt, 653  
 J. M. Greenman, 453

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

District No. 1—  
 O. C. LaBarr, 391— 52  
 J. J. Hunt, 139  
 A. D. Brown, 105  
 District No. 4—  
 M. M. Trowbridge, 195—132  
 A. J. French, 63  
 District No. 5—  
 William Richards, 336— 37  
 J. B. Yates, 299  
 G. W. Grimshaw, 141

ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1878.

AUDITOR OF STATE.

O. P. Whitcomb, 1,375—690  
 M. Black, 491  
 O. H. Page, 685

CONGRESSMAN.

William Meighen, 1,119—6  
 M. H. Dunnell, 1,113

STATE SENATOR.

W. H. Officer, 1,295—37  
 O. W. Gibson, 1,258

REPRESENTATIVES.

J. D. Allen, 1,341—190  
 L. M. Gaskill, 1,151  
 J. F. Goodsell, 1,359—198  
 Thomas Gibson, 1,161

COUNTY AUDITOR.

J. M. Wyckoff, 1,385—210  
 O. N. Olburg, 1,175

REGISTER OF DEEDS.

W. M. Howe, 1,335—115  
 E. P. VanValkenburgh, 1,220

SHERIFF.

H. B. Corey, 1,333—113  
 A. E. Cox, 1,220

JUDGE OF PROBATE.

G. M. Cameron, 1,088—87  
 D. B. Smith, 1,001  
 B. F. Jones, 440

COUNTY ATTORNEY.

C. G. Kinsman, 1,394—261  
 J. E. Robinson, 1,133

CORONER.

D. Stork, 1,333—164  
 E. J. Kingsbury, 1,169

COUNTY SURVEYOR.

G. H. Allen, 1,343—186  
 C. E. Carter, 1,157

COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

Dist. No. 1.—  
 O. C. LaBarr, 240—96  
 W. S. Woodard, 144

## HISTORY OF MOWER COUNTY.

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1879.

## GOVERNOR.

John S. Pillsbury,	1,899—1301
Edward Rice,	598
William Meighen,	529
W. W. Satterlee,	111

## LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

Charles A. Gilman,	1,931—1361
E. P. Barnum,	570
I. W. Westfall,	507
S. B. Williams,	110

## SECRETARY OF STATE.

Fred VonBaumbach,	1,946—1371
Felix A. Borer,	575
A. P. Lane,	509
J. C. Stearns,	99

## RAILROAD COMMISSIONER.

William P. Marshall,	1,948—1375
William Colvill,	573
E. Ayers,	508
Charles Griswold,	104

## JUDGE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

John Q. Farmer,	1,788—481
Sherman Page,	1,307

## COUNTY TREASURER.

P. T. McIntyre,	1,659—222
William Baudler,	1,437

## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

A. H. Tuttle,	1,678—268
Edward Bigelow,	1,410

## COUNTY CORONER.

W. L. Hollister,	1,530—1527
Scattering,	3

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

District No. 2.—	
O. W. Cass,	224—71
S. J. Sanborn,	150
J. Kaas,	153
District No. 3.—	
W. B. Mitson,	318—41
A. J. Porter,	277

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1880.

## PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT.

Garfield and Arthur,	2,089—1,228
Hancock and English,	861
Weaver and Chambers,	248

## CONGRESSMAN.

M. H. Dunnell,	1,584—694
W. G. Ward,	524
H. R. Wells,	890
C. H. Roberts,	204

## REPRESENTATIVES.

P. A. Peterson,	1,767
J. D. Allen,	1,658
John Frank,	1,553
W. W. Havens,	882
Henry Webber,	313
E. J. Kingsbury,	53
D. Williams,	59

## SHERIFF.

H. B. Corey,	1,773—517
A. E. Cox,	1,256
Thomas Riley,	148

## AUDITOR.

H. W. Elms,	1,616—145
J. M. Wyckoff,	1,471
John F. Cook,	96

## REGISTER OF DEEDS.

M. M. Trowbridge,	1,646—279
W. M. Howe,	1,367
J. B. Waddick,	173

## JUDGE OF PROBATE.

Ormanzo Allen,	1,709—676
Andrew Knox,	1,033
J. W. Eldridge,	309
F. Rafferty,	129

## COUNTY ATTORNEY.

George F. Goodwin,	1,617—840
S. M. Howell,	837
J. M. Greenman,	582
G. M. Cameron,	134

# HISTORY OF MOWER COUNTY.

59

## CORONER.

W. L. Hollister,	1,777—1,541
O. W. Gibson,	236
Dr. A. McDonald,	180

## SURVEYOR.

G. H. Allen,	3,085—3,040
C. E. Carter,	39
A. D. Brown,	45

## COURT COMMISSIONER.

C. C. Kinsman,	1,744—578
R. B. Wheeler,	1,166
W. H. Merrick,	242

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

District No. 2—	
R. A. Donaldson,	275— 4
C. L. Schroeder,	271
District No. 4—	
Hans C. Anderson,	361—252
J. C. Hawkins,	129
District No. 5—	
Oscar Ayers,	374— 41
A. E. Christie,	333
J. B. Yates,	102

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1881.

### GOVERNOR.

Lucius Hubbard,	1,284—912
Johnson,	363
Roberts,	372

### LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

Charles A. Gilman,	1,297—924
Barnam,	353
Lane,	373

### SECRETARY OF STATE.

Fred Von Baumbach,	1,298—935
Lamberton,	363
Chamberlain,	344

### STATE TREASURER.

Charles Kittleson,	1,288—917
Russell,	353
Johnson,	371

## STATE AUDITOR.

W. W. Braden,	1,298—940
Lehmicke,	351
Ayers.	358

## ATTORNEY GENERAL.

W. J. Hahn,	1,296—927
Baxter,	360
McKnight,	369

## CLERK OF SUPREME COURT.

Samuel H. Nichols,	1,297—924
Thornton,	348
Brackett,	373

## RAILROAD COMMISSIONER.

James H. Baker,	1,274—922
Cook,	352
Goar,	179

## JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT.

William Mitchell,	1,550—1,172
D. A. Dickinson,	1,635—1,322
Charles E. Vanderburg,	1,639—1,339
Clarke,	373
Wilson,	313
Secomb,	300

## COUNTY TREASURER.

G. L. Case,	1,298—561
G. W. Buck,	737

## CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT.

C. A. Roy,	609
J. M. Patch,	610
Sweningren,	813

## COURT COMMISSIONER.

Ormanzo Allen,	1,304—575
J. M. Greenman,	719

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

District No. 1—	
J. B. Graves,	333—332
Quinn,	1

## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

C. D. Belden,	1,160—302
G. W. Hall,	858

For the act applying the internal improvement and land fund to the payment of the State railroad adjustment bonds, the vote stood, Yes, 524; No, 816.

## ELECTION NOVEMBER, 1882.

## CONGRESSMAN.

Milo White,	1,298—314
A. Bierman,	984
C. H. Roberts,	209

## STATE SENATOR.

W. L. Hollister,	1,487—503
C. E. Carter,	984

## REPRESENTATIVES.

South—	
John Frank,	670— 22
H. C. Anderson,	648
North—	
J. F. Carson,	589—146
J. J. Hunt,	443

## COUNTY AUDITOR.

H. W. Elms,	1,648—820
Ole Jorgens,	828

## REGISTER OF DEEDS.

M. M. Trowbridge,	1,735—994
A. C. Bisbee,	741

## SHERIFF.

H. B. Corey,	1,708—958
L. D. Carter,	750

## PROBATE JUDGE.

O. Allen,	1,789—1,113
E. J. Kingsbury,	676

## COUNTY ATTORNEY.

J. M. Greenman,	1,373— 264
G. F. Goodwin,	1,109

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

District No. 2—	
C. L. Schroeder,	199— 11
E. S. Hoppin,	188

## CORONER.

Dr. J. P. Squires,	2,496— 2
G. H. Allen,	2,494

## ELECTION NOVEMBER, 1883.

## GOVERNOR.

Hubbard,	1,127—173
Bierman,	954
Holt,	72

## LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

Gilman,	1,438—795
Frazeo,	643
Shove,	75

## SECRETARY OF STATE.

VonBaumbach,	1,433—792
Green,	643
Payne,	82

## STATE TREASURER.

Kittleson,	1,404—752
Ludwig,	652
Anderson,	73

## ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Hahn,	1,436—785
Willis,	651
Cadwell,	69

## RAILROAD COMMISSIONER.

Baker,	1,444—804
Lindholm,	640
Meeker,	69

## COUNTY TREASURER.

G. L. Case,	1,915—1915
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## STATE SENATOR.

W. T. Wilkins,	1,132—170
John Frank,	962

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

Dist. No. 4.—	
H. C. Anderson,	260—191
Thos. Smith,	69

Dist. No. 5.—	
Oscar Ayers,	465—311
A. Dickerson,	154

## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

C. D. Belden,	1,849—1849
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## CHAPTER V.

## JUDICIAL HISTORY—THE COURTS.

Under the Territorial Government the Territory now comprising Mower county, together with fifteen other counties, constituted the Third Judicial District. Hon. Charles E. Flandreau, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, was judge. In 1855 he appointed V. P. Lewis Clerk of the Court.

By the adoption of the State Constitution in 1857, the Judicial district was changed; Mower and eight other counties were merged into the newly created Fifth Judicial District. In the fall of 1857 Hon. N. M. Donalson, of Owatonna, was elected judge of this district.

A term of court was advertised to be held at Austin, June 3, 1858, but it does not appear that "any court was convened."

The court records of Mower county commence with the September term, 1858, when court convened on the 20th of the month, at 11 o'clock A. M., with Hon. N. M. Donalson on the bench. J. E. Willard was Clerk; O. F. Perkins, District Attorney; J. B. Yates, Sheriff.

The business transacted at this term was

the admission to the bar of A. S. Everest, on motion of T. H. Armstrong.

The Grand and Petit Juries were called and sworn. From the latter the following were excused from serving: P. D. Vaughan, Postmaster; Richard Fuller, Charles Davis and Lewis Hardy, non-residents.

The first case called was that of the State vs. George Palmeto, and the attorney for the defendant made a motion that the prisoner and bail be discharged.

The following named were sworn as Grand Jurors: Sylvester Smith, foreman; H. S. Bailey, William Canfield, Samuel Clayton, G. W. Wood, Isaac Smith, I. C. Jones, Sylvester Hills, Elijah Sanborn, S. C. Western, John W. Gregy, Solomon, Snow, Charles H. Huntington, I. D. Cowles, Lewis Skyhawk, Griffin Friars, Alanson Beach, James Jarrod, E. D. Calkins and Salmon Ames. H. S. Bailey and William Canfield were excused.

At the same term, on motion of H. C. Butler, O. Allen was admitted to the bar. A committee consisting of O. Allen, H. C. Butler and T. H. Armstrong was appointed to

examine Daniel B. Johnson, Jr., for admission. They reported favorably and he took the oath and enrolled his name upon the record. At the same time W. B. Covil and Augustus Armstrong were admitted to the bar.

Among the first criminal cases to come up were those of the U. S. vs. John and Joseph Tift and Jack Magilles; and the U. S. vs. Joseph Tift.

J. E. Willard signs the records as Clerk of Court at this term.

The second term of court recorded, was the April term, 1859, when the same officers were present. A committee was appointed to examine J. J. Farmer for admission to the bar; and upon their reporting favorably, an order was made granting him a diploma. He thereupon took the oath, and his name was enrolled as an "attorney and counselor at law" of the State of Minnesota.

At this term the case of the State of Minnesota vs. Simeon D. Lamb, came up for hearing, and a motion was made for a change of venue to Fillmore county, which was denied.

At this term of court the Grand Jury found true bills of indictment against Geo. A. Todd, A. H. Barnhart and James A. Ray.

Among the most important indictments returned by the Grand Jury at the September term of court, 1872, were those against Bartholomew Kennedy, Jr., Edwin W. McAlpine, and John R. Bates. All of these parties plead guilty.

Bartholomew Kennedy was charged with horse stealing, and was sentenced to one year in jail. He was an American, about twenty years of age; and had but little of the

appearance of criminal classes. Bad company really brought him to the felon's cell.

Edwin W. McAlpine, for the larceny of a horse and buggy, was sent up for one year. He was but seventeen years of age, and of Scotch lineage. He seemed to have but little intelligence, and that little was a sort of cunning secretiveness.

The case of John R. Bates was a sad one. He was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, for setting fire to a bridge on the Southern Minnesota Railroad. He was about twenty-eight years old; evidently of Irish extraction, although born in America. If circumstances can extenuate crime, his act may be ameliorated by the fact that one of his horses was killed by the cars, and the company had given no attention to his importunities for a liquidation of his claim. He was a poor man, and needed indemnity, and no doubt committed the crime while in a fit of exasperation.

Another leaf from crime's chapter in this county is founded on an account of two young men who tampered with the track of the Southern Minnesota railroad and finally culminated in burning a bridge on that line of road, at a point near Ramsey Junction.

This occurred in the summer of 1872, June 2. The track was "switched," spikes drawn and two rails pulled up, sufficient to throw a train off the track. This was discovered by some children, at play, and word was given in time to avoid a serious accident.

The next day, June 3d, a rail was removed near the same place and a freight train was thrown from the track, the engineer and

fireman only escaping serious injury by jumping from the locomotive to the roadside. The following Sunday they fired the bridge over the Turtle, but it was discovered and extinguished before great damage was done. The service of Captain Frank Hatch, of La Crosse, was secured as a detective to work up the case, with the view of bringing the guilty ones to punishment.

These outrages were all committed at about the same point, near the crossing over Turtle creek, and about three miles from Austin; but to ferret out the perpetrators was no easy undertaking, even upon the part of an expert like Capt. Hatch. But he visited the locality, in the guise of a cattle buyer. He called at many of the farm houses and occasionally selected a fat cow, paying a dollar to bind the bargain, talking but little on any other subject than that of stock, but managed to get considerable out of the neighbors concerning the late railroad troubles. He managed to pick up one fact after another till he was fully convinced in his own mind that he had obtained a clue to the guilty party. To illustrate the cunning of Mr. Hatch, it may here be stated that he dropped off near the scene of action, and after finding the exact time of the several accidents, he then proceeded to find out just where every male member of the neighborhood was at that particular time, and in a way unsuspected by any one. Finding all were honestly and innocently engaged except five boys and young men, he then proceeded to follow them up. The whereabouts of three of this number was satisfactorily explained to him, leaving two. These two were John R. Bates and Wilbur Haney

Bates was then a man about 30 years; he lived on the widow Clark's farm, with his mother and a married sister named Kirk. Haney was but 17 years of age, and lived with his parents near by. Hatch disguised himself again, by cutting off his long chin whiskers and acting the part of a state prison convict, going under the name of Cushman. He represented to Bates that his business was making and passing counterfeit money, and he wanted some trusty fellow to help "shove the queer," as he termed his money. Bates eagerly accepted the chance, and the second night after they met he and "Old Cush," (as they styled him,) were sleeping together, one dreaming of the wealth he hoped soon to gain, the other with an eye and ear open, waiting for evidence to ripen into a conviction which should place his bed-fellow behind the prison cell bars. Every other night "Old Cush" went to Austin, pretending to see if the money they "passed" was creating any stir, but in fact spent the time in ambush along the track. This went on for a week or ten days. Finally Bates acknowledged to "Old Cush" that he and Wilbur Haney tore up the track and fired the railroad bridge. One day Bates proposed that they "go and raise hell with the track again." The three started, but finally concluded to tear down and carry off some snow fences. The next day "Old Cush" made an appointment to meet Bates at the Austin House, a hotel in Austin, where he was to supply him with more "queer" money. The exact plan of coming into town and meeting was planned out by the sharp detective. Sheriff Mollison, who had been seconding every move, co-operating with

Hatch, and at the time named Bates appeared, entered the hotel office and was at once arrested by the sheriff. "Old Cush" was there, but not in his late disguised manner, and when he introduced himself to Bates as Frank Hatch, an officer of the United States, *alias* "Old Cush," it checkmated the poor rascal Bates, till he was speechless with wonder and astonishment. He was at once put in irons and taken to the jail, and soon after brought before Justice of the Peace Woodard, plead guilty to the charges made by the station agent at Ramsey Junction, and was duly bound over to court. As the boy Haney was thought to be but a pliant tool, used by Bates to accomplish his hellish designs, no complaint was ever made of his conduct. Bates had had a horse killed by the cars, and claimed a value of \$175, while the animal was only worth about \$50. The company not complying with his demand, it is supposed he took revenge in this way. The following term of the district court he was tried, plead guilty, and was sentenced to states prison for five years.

#### IMPEACHMENT TRIAL OF JUDGE SHERMAN PAGE.

But few trials in any State of the Union have caused more excitement and animated, hotly contested, discussion, than that of the "State of Minnesota vs. Hon. Judge Sherman Page." He was impeached by the citizens of Mower county—where he lived—before the *Twentieth* Session of the State Legislature. The trial commenced February 28, 1878, and was the sole work of that body for many weeks, during which time the newspapers of this and all the adjacent States were filled with elaborate accounts of one of the greatest impeachment trials, placed on

court or state records, since the time of the impeachment case of Andrew Johnson, Vice-President (acting President) of the United States. It engaged the attention and thought of the entire West, but was more especially the one theme talked, spoken and written upon by the people of the State of Minnesota, during the months in which the trial was proceeding.

Before going into the details of the case, more minutely, it may here be stated that Judge Page was a Vermonter, and came to Mower county in 1867, from Decorah, Iowa. Prior to that he lived at Lancaster, Wisconsin. Notwithstanding his utter failure on the bench, it is conceded by both his friends and enemies, that he was a man possessed of more than ordinary ability, and before his unfortunate fall (by reason of his overbearing, arbitrary rule on the bench) he was capable of filling any office of trust within the gift of the people of the State.

In personal appearance, he was a well built, strong man, carrying with him, everywhere, a look of dignity, which commanded the respect of the masses with whom he associated himself. He was a shrewd, forcible and pleasant speaker, as well as a sarcastic, vigorous writer, and at one time he edited a paper here, for political purposes.

After his impeachment trial he ran for the Judgeship again, but was defeated by John Q. Farmer, of Spring Valley, Fillmore county. Later he engaged in the practice of law, at Austin, where he had been in practice with E. O. Wheeler, previous to his being elected Judge.

In 1882, he removed to California, where

he engaged in farming and horticulture. After a few months his wife died.

As an index to the style and character of Judge Page, it is related of him that he had an inscription placed over the doorway of his office, bearing these words:

*"No Quarter to my Enemies."*

So great was the disgust for him, by prominent and excellent citizens of Austin and Mower county, that he was, at numerous times, elbowed and pushed from off the side walks; and upon one occasion, just before his leaving the county, he was shot at by one of the enraged and abused citizens, the shot taking effect about his neck.

After a thorough knowledge of Mr. Page, in both private and public life, one must conclude that he was a man possessed of a very eccentric, strange organism; one strange to explain or understand. Having genius and education, with marked ability in various spheres, yet with all that nature and cultivation had done for him, he was a man unfit to hold the place of leader or fill any official capacity.

The first action towards the impeachment trial of Judge Sherman Page, was by the following citizens of Mower county: R. I. Smith, C. H. Davidson, A. A. Harwood, Lafayette French, D. H. Stinson, H. O. Basford and others, who drew up a petition, praying the Legislature to present articles of impeachment to the Senate against Sherman Page. This petition was duly presented by S. J. Sanborn, of Racine. This petition was referred to the judiciary committee for investigation, and they subpoenaed witnesses from Mower county, and the testimony of these witnesses was the foundation of the

articles of impeachment which were adopted by the House of Representatives.

The following is from the Senate Journal, regarding the Page impeachment case:

"At eight minutes past three o'clock, a special committee from the House of Representatives, consisting of Messrs. J. P. West, N. Richardson, J. C. Edson, H. I. Brainard and J. W. Bowler, appeared before the bar of the Senate, and announced that they had received a communication from the House to make to the Senate, relative to the impeachment of Sherman Page, Judge of the Tenth Judicial District. Mr. Armstrong moved that a committee from the House present to the Senate any communication with the transmission of which they are charged. Mr. West, of the special committee, then presented the following communication to the Senate:

*Mr. President:*—In obedience to the order of the House of Representatives, we appear before you, and in the name of the House of Representatives, and the whole people of the State of Minnesota, we do impeach Sherman Page, Judge of the Tenth Judicial District, of corrupt conduct in office, and of crimes and misdemeanors in office; and we further inform the Senate that the House of Representatives will, in due time, exhibit particular articles of impeachment against him, and make good the same; and in their name we demand that the Senate take order for the appearance of said Sherman Page, to answer said impeachment."

The President then announced the appointment of Senators Nelson, Armstrong and Doran, as the special committee to wait on the Governor, and inform him that a

committee from the House of Representatives had appeared before the bar of the Senate and impeached Sherman Page, Judge of the Tenth Judicial district.

The message from the House was laid before the judiciary committee, of which Mr. Armstrong was chairman.

The board of managers, who were appointed to conduct the impeachment case, were, Messrs. S. L. Campbell, C. A. Gilman, W. H. Mead, J. P. West, F. L. Morse, Henry Hinds, W. H. Feller and W. P. Clough, as counsel.

The attorneys for respondent were Hon. C. K. Davis, of St. Paul, Hon. J. W. Lorey, of LaCrosse, and J. A. Lovely, of Albert Lea.

Officers of the impeachment court—President, Hon. J. B. Wakefield; Clerk, Charles W. Johnson; Sergeant-at arms, M. Anderson; Reporters, G. N. Hillman and Jay Stone.

The Sergeant-at-arms proclaimed the following: "Hear ye! Hear ye! All persons are commanded to keep silence on pain of imprisonment, while the House of Representatives is exhibiting to the Senate of the State of Minnesota, articles of impeachment against Sherman Page, Judge of the Tenth Judicial District."

The subjoined is a brief summary of the *twenty* charges brought against Judge Page:

*First*—With trying to indict S. B. Mollison, correspondent of the *Austin Register*, for the publication of certain articles, which he considered a libelous set of statements concerning his honor. And by reason of this supposed crime, he caused said Mollison to be put under \$1,500 bonds, or at his option be made a prisoner of the county jail,

until the following term of court. The court held, "by reason of said wrongful, malicious and oppressive conduct of Judge Page, has never been able to procure a fair trial in said case, and by reason of which said Sherman Page became and was guilty of corrupt conduct in his said office."

*Second*—With corrupt conduct in his official capacity, causing litigation and perplexity upon the part of one Thomas Riley.

*Third*—Nothing of positive proof was found in this charge.

*Fourth*—The matters charged in this were of a minor character and ruled out.

*Fifth*—As to matters set forth in the fifth paragraph of the petition the committee found that at the time Davidson & Basford were indicted before Judge Page, and all the acts toward their employe, S. B. Mollison, were done without sufficient justification.

*Sixth*—Nothing in this charge was sustained.

*Seventh*—No positive proof of guilt appeared under this charge.

*Eighth*—With gross impropriety, in the case of Judge Page before the Board of County Commissioners, in opposition to the allowance of certain bills of George Baird, Sheriff, and Thomas Riley, Constable.

*Ninth*—The matters alleged in this charge, a part were found to be untrue and a part true, but not censurable upon his part.

*Tenth*—No criminal conduct found upon investigation.

*Eleventh*—With denying one W. T. Manderville, who acted as Deputy Sheriff, an order for his pay, because he supposed he was no friend of his, politically speaking.

*Twelfth*—As to the second sub-division of

this paragraph, the House found that Judge Page acted malicious and indiscreet in the matter of trying *to force* the Grand Jury to bring in a bill of indictment against the County Treasurer, Mr. Ingmundson, for the wrong keeping of his accounts, and for arresting said Ingmundson, after the said Grand Jury had failed to find a bill against him, and causing him to be placed under \$1,000 bonds for his appearance at the next term of his court. That his conduct was meddling and arbitrary in the whole matter.

*Thirteenth*—Not proven.

*Fourteenth*—That his conduct was arbitrary and uncalled for, in the case of his causing D. H. Stimson, Deputy Sheriff, to pay over certain monies, without giving him an opportunity for a hearing on his behalf.

*Fifteenth*—As to the matter set up in this charge, it was found that his conduct was arbitrary and contrary to law in the case of D. H. Stimson, whom he had brought before him for contempt, alleging that said Stimson had circulated, or caused to be circulated, certain petitions asking the Judge (Page) to resign his office, on account of his unpopularity among the people of his district.

*Sixteenth to Twentieth*—No good evidence was adduced on these four charges.

The following was the vote of the House to impeach Judge Page:

Allred,	Anderson,
Barthel,	Bishop,
Brainard,	Buffum,
Button,	Chandlor,
Campbell,	Christenson,
Christopherson,	Crandall,
Cole,	Cowing,
Currie,	Day,
Dilley,	Dresbach,
Edson,	Emmel,

Felles,	Fetzner,
Fidler,	Fulton,
Gillman,	Gunvalson,
Geib,	Holten,
Harvey,	Huntley,
Hinds,	Holland,
Klessner,	Lange,
Langemo,	Larkin,
Lewis,	Lien,
McBroom,	McCrea,
McDermott,	Mead,
Mills,	Morse,
Mosher,	Pinney,
Putnam,	Perrin,
Patterson,	Rawson,
Reaney,	Richter,
Richardson,	Rieland,
Sabin,	Stanley,
Sanborn,	Stone,
Thompson,	Trewe,
Warner,	West,
Wickney,	Winant,
Wiley,	Mr. Speaker.
West,	

AGAINST IMPEACHMENT.

Bohan,	Bowler,
Burnap,	Bye,
Clark,	Colby,
Colville,	Dennison,
Emmons,	Evenson,
Fanning,	Fowler,
Ghostly,	Hall,
Haselton,	Hicks,
Hyslop,	Johnson,
Keenan,	Ladd,
Lutz,	Miller,
Muir,	Null,
Purdie,	Rahilly,
Stacy,	Thompson,
Thompson,	Williams.

The vote stood: For the impeachment—71; Against impeachment—30.

After a thorough trial of the case, and a vote upon the same, by the Senate, in June and July of the same year, 1878, the vote in that body on the main charges stood as follows:

## GUILTY.

Aherns,	Hersey,
Bailey,	Lienau,
Bonniwell,	McHench,
Clough,	Moorehouse,
Deuel,	Morrison,
Doran,	Nalsen,
Drew,	Page,
Edwards,	Pillsbury,
Finseth,	Remore,
Gilfillan,	Shalleen,
Goodrich,	Swonstrom,
Henry,	Total—23.

## NOT GUILTY.

Armstrong,	McClure,
Clement,	McNelley,
Donnelly,	Mealey,
Edgerton,	Morton,
Gilfillan (C. D.)	Rice,
Hall,	Smith,
Houlton,	Waite,
Langdon,	Waldron,
McDonald,	Wheat—Total—18.

On charges contained in article 8 the vote stood: Guilty, 22; not guilty, 19.

The remainder of the ten articles voted upon repeatedly by the senate had less than a majority for impeachment.

Upon the announcement of the vote the president declared that as the number of senators voting "Guilty" was less than the necessary *two thirds*, required by a constitutional law of Minnesota to convict, that the respondent, Judge Page, was acquitted of the charges made against him. Thus the long impeachment trial was finally brought to a close by a lack of *five* votes to impeach.

## HOMICIDES AND MURDEROUS DEEDS.

The first murder, so-called, which occurred in Mower county, was that of Chauncey Leverich. It took place during the month of August, 1856, at a saloon in Austin. This

saloon stood on the present site of D. B. Smith's agricultural office. The parties committing this dark deed were Horace Silvers and William Oliver. The body of the murdered man was buried just back and at the corner of the saloon. The first suit at law in the county was occasioned by this criminal deed. Silvers and Oliver were both fined, the former \$20 and the latter \$10. The cause was prosecuted by John Tiff and Levi Watrous, and defended by Everest and Allen, the parties being arrested and prematurely brought for trial, on the charge of an assault and battery. Leverich did not die for five or six days after the affray took place, which gave the attorneys for the defence (not having any good reason why their clients should not be fined for a breach of peace) to read to the court and audience some long lectures on the evils of intemperance and the liquor traffic. When it was learned by the murderous parties that Leverich would not recover they left the country, bearing the knowledge with them that for the sum of \$30 they had been allowed to take the life's blood of a brother man.

## MOBBED AND KILLED.

Perhaps of all the sad, hard cases to give an accurate account of is that of a mob's strange wild actions. Such a case as this must be mentioned in this connection. The title of this case, as found by a reference to the court records of Mower county, is "The State of Minnesota vs. John and Oliver Potter, George and William Kemp, *et al.*" This tragedy occurred near Grand Meadow, in 1868, and created great excitement throughout the surrounding country.

The case was one in which a man by the

name of Chauncy Knapp had been suspected and charged with having criminal intimacy with one of the women in the neighborhood, which was generally believed to be the fact. Growing indignant over so disgraceful an act, a dozen or fifteen men collected and thought to frighten the man Knapp from the county. They took him to the little lake, which is near Grand Meadow, in the night time, and there subjected him to a treatment which will never be fully known, and finally resulted in drowning the man, either by intent or accident. His body was then taken to a corn field and there buried several feet deep, between the rows of growing corn, where it remained till, aroused by suspicion, some of the citizens began to look into the matter. The parties were all arrested and held over for trial. Judge Donaldson presided on the bench at that time and the greater part of the suspected were bailed out or set at liberty, while the Potter boys and some others were kept over and had various trials. George and William Kemp were tried and acquitted, and none of the parties accessory to the crime were ever punished for their foul deed:

#### A FATHER KILLS HIS SON.

Sunday morning, June 6, 1872, the ordinary quietude of Austin was disturbed by the report that a murder had been committed during the night time. The report was only too true and a crowd speedily gathered around the spot where the dark, unnatural deed had been committed, and where the ghastly corpse still lay in its drapery of blood. The victim was Andrew Oleson, a Norwegian, aged about twenty-five years, and who worked on a farm about four miles from

Austin. His own father, Ole Bang, was guilty of giving him a fatal stab with a long knife. From the facts adduced upon the trial it appears that Mr. Bang and his son, Ole Anderson, came to town to transact some business and brought fifty cents along with them for the special purpose of getting whisky or alcohol. They finally procured two pints of the latter, which they diluted somewhat with water and then drank it all. From about ten to eleven o'clock in the evening they were at the Scandinavian hotel, drinking and quarreling one with the other. While there and in that condition the father pulled a long sheathed knife from off his person and brandishing it about promiscuously at his son, who was trying to get him to go home. They both left the bar room, entered the street and all supposed they were going home. But soon cries were heard—"Police!" "Police!" With this saying: "You would kill your own son." But strange as it may seem, no one went to see what was the trouble. They participated in a short scuffle, when one was seen to walk away and the other to lay down by the fence. When found there was a knife wound in his breast. Search was soon made for the old man, and he was soon found by Colos Fenton, lying asleep in the brush, near the Cedar river, in the eastern part of town. He was arrested and taken to the spot, and he at once claimed the dirk knife as his property. A coroner's jury was called consisting of George J. Warden, M. Gibbs, L. A. Phelps, H. M. Allen, B. Sammons and E. Morrison, who rendered the following verdict: "We, the jury, at a coroner's inquest held June 2, 1872, over the body, etc., etc, find that he came to his

death by a stab with a knife in the hands of Ole Bang, his father."

He was promptly brought before Justice Merrick, upon a complaint of County Attorney Wheeler, which charged him with killing "with malice aforethought." When the complaint was read to the prisoner, who received it by an interpreter, in the person of Christian Johnson, he was asked "guilty or not guilty," he answered, "I cannot remember, I might have done it." The judge then put the same question to him again, to which he responded, "I guess I must be;" but upon further questioning he answered "I don't know," whereupon the judge ordered that a plea of *not* guilty be entered.

In spite of an earnest plea upon the part of his council, Sherman Page, in which he claimed "alcohol was to blame for the crime and not the man," he was sent to Rochester to await his trial before the following District Court, which resulted to the State's prison for four years. Ole Bang was at that time 63 years of age.

On Tuesday evening, January 17, 1865, Daniel Kilroy, an Irishman, who then lived a few miles from Austin, was found in the street opposite where L. R. Hathaway then lived, in Austin, in an insensible condition, with a fractured skull, a deep cut under the left eye, and other frightful bruises about the face and head. He was taken to the Lacy Hotel, where Dr. O. Allen sewed up the cut below the eye, and otherwise dressed his wounds. The unfortunate man died about twenty-four hours later, without having recovered his senses. Kilroy had come to town with a yoke of oxen, and had been in the village billiard saloon drinking, during

the evening. He was known to have left the saloon drunk, but his movements after this were shrouded in mystery. It was supposed that some intoxicated comrade, or bitter enemy, for wrongs either imagined or real, had taken this occasion to settle their drunken dispute or grudge of other days. The team was found a short distance out of town, a day or two later. Coroner O. Allen immediately after Kilroy's death, summoned a jury and held an inquest over his body. After examining witnesses the jury returned the following verdict: "Daniel Kilroy came to his death by blows received upon the head with some weapon, in the hands of some person or persons, unknown to this jury."

Among one of the most prominent civil cases in the county was one entitled "Mower County vs. Sylvester Smith." Smith was County Treasurer at the time—about 1873 it commenced—and as an outgrowth of the Judge Page faction in the county, Mr. Smith was sued by the commissioners of Mower county for about \$42,000, which amount they claimed belonged to the county funds, from his administration, as treasurer. Not being willing to try the case before Judge Page, a set of referees were appointed whose duty it was to hire experts and make a thorough investigation of all his books and accounts, to see if there was the alleged shortage. After such an examination had been made, according to their judgment there was about \$17,000, short. Mr. Smith at once appealed the case to the Supreme Court, whereupon the case was sent back for another hearing in Mower. Then a second set of experts and referees were chosen. These after many weeks of tedious toil and

figuring, finally determined that his accounts were correct, and that he was not in any sense a defaulter to the county. Mr. Smith's character and uprightness was fully vindicated by these thorough investigations, while the instigators of the case very greatly belittled themselves in the eyes of the masses in Mower county.

The most important case in the April term of the district court in 1881 was that of State of Minnesota vs. John A Riley, charged with an attempt to assassinate Judge Sherman Page.

George F. Goodwin was then Prosecuting Attorney and was ably assisted by J. M. Bur-

lingame, of Owatonna. The following served as jurors in the case:

C. Dremer, of Nevada; F. W. Frisbee, of LeRoy; George W. Benton, of Windom; T. Stewart, of Racine; L. C. Scribner, of Frankford; Edward Bassett, of Udolpho; Ole G. Anderson, of Lansing; A. H. Chapman, of Lansing; J. M. Mason, of LeRoy; F. S. Bagley, of Grand Meadow; W. W. Sweet, of LeRoy; O. B. Dearbon, of Lyle.

The attorneys for the defense were Lafayette French, G. M. Cameron, assisted by W. W. Erwin, of St. Paul. The case was impartially tried, and the jury brought in a verdict—"not guilty."

## CHAPTER VI.

### THE BAR OF MOWER COUNTY.

There is no class or professions which has more influence in social and political matters than the bar. Even the press, which wields a mighty power among the masses, does not surpass it, as matters treated by them are usually local and varying. The pulpit, a great worker for good, is more devoted to the moral and spiritual welfare of man. But the legal profession embraces all under one grand aim. Upon the few principles of natural justice is founded the whole superstructure of civil law, tending to relieve the wants and meet the desires of all alike. The grand object of life is equal justice to all, although the latter must be strictly adhered to, to pre-

serve the supremacy of law. The laws are formed as exigencies arise demanding them, by the representatives of the people. Change is necessary. The wants of the people of to-day, and the lawful restraints to be thrown around those of the present age, differ very materially from those of former times. They are too lenient or too severe, in one case to be strengthened and in the other modified. The business of the lawyer does not call upon him to make laws, but it does lie within his power to intercept them, and to apply them to the daily wants of man. Every matter of importance, every question of weight among all classes and grades comes

to him, in one form or another, for discussion. Hence, the lawyer is a man of to-day—posted upon all matters pertaining to the age in which he lives. His capital is his ability and individuality, and he cannot bequeath them to his successors. They die with him and live only in the memory of his deeds and sayings.

In the early days business was not so great in extent as to occupy the full time of the lawyer. Suits were not so numerous or paying as to afford him a comfortable living for himself and family, and often other occupations were coupled in connection to swell the slender income. Commonly a lawyer became somewhat of a politician, and more of the prominent lawyers of those days went to Congress and served in the State Legislatures, than at the present. The people demanded their services and they were only too glad to comply. To-day the profession stands at the head almost of all other callings. There has been, and still are, able and prominent men practicing law before the courts of Mower county—men who were an honor to the profession, to society and the county in which they lived.

In this chapter is presented sketches of most of the lawyers who have ever practiced here. None are willingly omitted, and some more would appear, were it possible to secure accurate material for such sketches.

#### AUSTIN ATTORNEYS.

The first attorney to establish himself in the law business at Austin, was Ormanzo Allen, who came from Wisconsin July 2, 1856, and has been a continuous resident and practitioner since that time, except the short time he served as Provost Marshal.

The second lawyer was Aaron S. Everest, who came from High Forest, in August 1856. He came from New York, in 1856. He was a man possessed of some native ability, always having his share of the legal business of Mower county, during his residence here. In 1870 he removed to Atchison, Kansas. He served in the Union army during the civil war, going into the service as Captain of Company C. 2nd Regiment of Minnesota Volunteers, and came out as Brevet Colonel.

W. H. Merrick, who had studied law with his father in Milwaukee, came to Austin and engaged in merchandising. A few years later, he was admitted to the bar and practiced for four or five years. In 1882 he removed to Spokane Falls, Washington Territory.

Hiram Randolph Davidson was admitted to the bar at Austin at an early day, but devoted his time to editing his paper, the Austin Register. He was born in Alleghany county, New York, in August, 1838. When about fifteen years of age he spent some time in school at Beloit, Wis., and was there converted. Subsequently he became connected with the Oberlin school, in Ohio, where he continued during some six years, earnestly prosecuting his studies in the preparatory and collegiate departments of that institution. He graduated with honor in 1862. In 1855 he united with the Congregational church at Oberlin. Mostly dependent upon his own resources for the means of prosecuting his studies while at Oberlin, he was under the imperative necessity of being both economical and industrious.

At intervals he taught, and thus replenished his exhausted resources. During the



A. A. Brown

last two years of his connection with the institution he was accountant in Plumb's banking establishment at Oberlin, three months in the Chicago Commercial College, together with much executive tact and talent, made him an expert accountant. Besides all this work he gave considerable time and attention to reading law, and was for several months in Chicago with Judge Blodgett, now Judge of the United States District Court, and was admitted to practice in Chicago in November, 1862. In September, 1862, Mr. Davidson was married to Miss Mary Wheeler, of St. Charles, Ill., and soon afterward, by invitation of his father in this place, came here to spend some time in visiting. Becoming deeply interested in this portion of the State, he determined, after mature deliberation, to make his home here. Although there was at that time another paper published here, he resolved to establish another paper, and accordingly, he founded the *Register*, in July, 1863, and in November of the same year he was elected County Attorney of Mower county, conducted the paper until April, 1864, when, admonished by failing health, he left the paper in the management of his brother, C. H. Davidson, and went to St. Charles, Ill., where he died May 4, 1864. His health had been failing for some time. Long after the condition of his throat prevented him from uttering a loud word, he employed his pen, and thus communed with his readers, giving through the *Register* his last thoughts and counsels. His death was mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He was a man of much natural as well acquired ability, and his actual worth in the community, although rec-

ognized, was not fully appreciated until the hand of death had laid him low.

D. B. Johnson, Jr., attorney at law, is one of the early practitioners, as well as one of the early citizens of Austin, having located here, September 1st, 1856. He is a native of the town of Chazy, Clinton county, New York, born in 1830. He was educated at the public school of his native town, and was for some time a student of Plattsburg Academy; he engaged in the study of law while a student at the academy. After leaving school he was for a time engaged in surveying civil engineering. In April, 1856, he came west, spent some time traveling in Illinois and Wisconsin, coming to Austin as stated, in September of that year. In the spring of 1857 he engaged in merchandising, his partner in business being Albert Galloway. In 1858 disposed of his business, and was admitted to the bar the same year. He enlisted in August 1862 in the first regiment of Minnesota Mounted Rangers, and took part in General Sibley's expedition against the Indians. Mr. Johnson was mustered into the United States service as second Lieutenant, and on the organization of company M. of his regiment, was made first Lieutenant of that company, which position he held until the expiration of his service, in December 1863. Mr. Johnson has held various official positions; was Justice of the Peace in 1857 and 1858; was County Attorney one term, also County Auditor one term, and in January, 1862, he was appointed engrossing clerk of the Legislature; he served two sessions, that of 1866 and 1867, as member of the Assembly branch of that body. In August, 1871, he was appointed one of the Associate

Justices of the Territory of New Mexico, resigning that position in 1872. From 1858 until 1871 he was associated in the practice of law, under the firm name of Cameron & Johnson. Since the latter date he has been alone in practice. Mr. Johnson is a Republican, politically, and has been identified with that party since its organization. Mrs. Johnson was formerly Miss Lois A. Webb. She was born at Plattsburg, New York, in 1837. Her parents were Horatio N. and Mary Webb. Mrs. Johnson is a lady of intelligence and culture. She was the first organist of Mower county, and was organist at the dedication of the first church erected in Mower county, that of the Methodist church of Austin. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have three children, Lottie E., wife of Joseph S. Cox, of Minneapolis; Hattie B., wife of Matt W. Miles, a railway mail clerk on the Northern Pacific R. R., and Addie C.

G. M. Cameron came to Austin, November 27, 1856, and has been constantly in the practice of law till the present time, 1884. Mr. Cameron is more fully noticed in the representative chapter.

L. Bouregard came to Austin when quite young, and became a law student under Aaron S. Everest, and was admitted to the bar at Austin. Latter he moved to Utah, and from there to New Mexico.

Sherman Page came in 1866 from Decorah, Iowa. He was a man of much ability and prominence in the county. He was afterward elected Judge of the Tenth Judicial district. After his term of office expired he again entered the practice of law, but did not succeed as well as before, and after a few months removed to California. He is treated elsewhere in this volume.

E. O. Wheeler came in 1866, with Sherman Page, and formed a partnership with him. He remained until 1879 and then removed to Auburn, New York, where he practices his chosen profession. He was a fine office lawyer, as well as a good counselor.

Rush B. Wheeler, a brother of E. O. Wheeler, was a partner of his brother for a time, but never attained any eminence. He finally removed to St. Paul and engaged in the real estate business.

The firm of Richardson, Day & Pierce, one of the most extensive in its operations in Mower county is the present representative of the earliest established law firm in the city of Austin, that of Judge Sherman Page and E. O. Wheeler, who opened an office here in 1856, and worked up a large practice.

In 1873 the partnership of Page & Wheeler was dissolved, they being succeeded by E. O. and R. B. Wheeler.

Seven years later the senior member of the firm withdrew, R. B. Wheeler continuing in charge of the business till April, 1883, when he retired and was succeeded by the present firm.

In addition to their extensive law practice they are largely engaged in handling real estate, having many thousand acres under their charge, both for sale and for rent. In this latter branch of business they are greatly aided by their fine set of abstract books, begun many years ago by Page & Wheeler. They loan money for Eastern capitalists and do a large insurance and collection business.

W. E. Richardson has been constantly connected with the office since he entered it as a student of law immediately after his

graduation from the Austin High School in 1878. He was admitted to the bar on the 27th of September, 1882. Mr. Richardson was born in Vermont in 1861, and came to Austin with his father, F. A. Richardson, when he was seven years old. In December, 1882, he married Miss Kay Von Suessmilch, daughter of Dr. F. L. Von Suessmilch, an eminent physician of Delevan, Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Richardson have one child, Francis.

Frank A. Day was born in Franklin county, New York, in 1858, and accompanied his father to Austin in 1876.

He completed the High School course in this city, graduating in the same class with Mr. Richardson. He began the study of law with Briggs & Elders at Fargo, Dakota, in the spring of 1881, and was admitted to the bar at Moorehead, Minnesota, in November, 1882. Returning to Austin in December of the same year he took charge of the land and abstract departments of the office of R. B. Wheeler until the formation of the present firm.

L. A. Pierce was born in Syracuse, Onondago county, New York, in 1850, and graduated at the college in Elmira in that State in 1872; commenced the study of law in the office of Wood & Rathburn at Auburn, N. Y., January 1st, 1873, and was admitted to the bar in 1877. He commenced the practice of his profession in Auburn and remained there in active practice until 1882, when he came to Austin and took the management of the legal department of the office of R. B. Wheeler, which he retained until Mr. Wheeler was succeeded by the present firm. Mr. Pierce was the attorney of the city of Auburn

for two years, from March, 1880, to March, 1882, and was singularly successful in his practice. He is an able lawyer and has attained a high standing in the courts of this State.

C. J. Shortt came to Minnesota in 1856, and settled in Northfield, Rice county, where he engaged in surveying. He was appointed Postmaster there that year, serving until the spring of 1857. He was born in Washington county, Vermont, in 1831, was educated in the Vermont State University, where he graduated in 1855. He commenced the study of law in 1857, with Batchelder & Buckman, at Faribault, and was admitted to the bar in 1858. He remained in Faribault until the spring of 1859, when he came to Austin. He soon after formed a partnership with Ormanzo Allen, which continued for several years. He was elected County Attorney in 1860, and served four years. He again filled that office in 1865 and 1866, and again in 1869 and 1870. In 1869 he removed to the town of Dexter, where he was engaged in agricultural pursuits 6 years, when he opened a law and real estate office at Brownsdale, in company with J. M. Weiser. In 1881 he returned to Austin. He is at present Deputy Register of Deeds. He was married in the fall of 1861, to Isabella Stowell. They have four children, named Kittie A., Edith M., Jennie S., Philip H.

Lyman D. Baird, attorney, is a son of George and Charlotte Baird, who came to Austin in 1856, where he still resides. He was born at Austin, October 17th, 1857, was educated at the high school of this city, and began the study of law in the spring of 1879,

with George N. Baxter, of Faribault. He was admitted in 1882. He was postmaster of the legislature in 1879, and is City Attorney of Austin, for 1884.

Eugene B. Crane, attorney and counselor at law, son of William A., and Laura (Chatfield) Crane, was born in Sharon, Medina county, Ohio, on the 4th of November, 1840. After receiving his early education in the schools of his native town, he studied in the literary department at Oberlin College. He next entered the law department of Michigan State University at Ann Arbor, where he was graduated on the 28th of March, 1866. In the following year, he was admitted to the bar in Mt. Vernon, Lawrence county, Missouri. The spring of the year 1868 found him in Minnesota, drawn hither, doubtless, by the fact that it was the new home of his parents, both of them well at that time living in Mower county. In the spring of 1870, having been admitted to practice in the courts of this State, he opened a law office at Austin. His professional duties soon began to be supplemented with the labors of another calling. From July 1, 1871, to the 22nd of May, 1872, he was engaged as a topographical engineer in inspecting surveys and appraising lands in Minnesota for the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. Being then assigned to its law department, he served that company in his legal capacity until the disastrous failure of Jay Cooke, in September, 1873, when he resumed the practice of his profession at Austin. In April, 1882, Mr. Crane again entered the employ of the N. P. Railroad Company, this time representing the land department of said company in the State of Wis-

consin. He was thus engaged in looking after various law and land interests until Feb. 23, 1883. July of that year, saw him once more settled in Austin, where he still remains, a useful and respected citizen, conducting with faithfulness and ability the affairs of his clients, and lending himself readily to the conduct of enterprises promotive of the public good. Abbie Litchfield, with whom he was united in marriage on the 29th day of April, 1866, was for some years one of the most successful teachers in Mower county, having had previous experience in that vocation in her native State, and being a graduate of the Springfield Collegiate Institute. After her marriage, she taught school several terms in the State of Missouri, in the perilous period of re-construction following the close of the Rebellion.

Mrs. Crane was born in Springfield, Vermont, on the 21st day of March, 1842, a daughter of Martin and Sally (Aklrick) Litchfield. She is an active member of the Ladies' Floral Club and Library Association of Austin, and is Secretary of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, for the Southern district of Minnesota, also an earnest worker in the Universalist Society and Sunday School.

Mr. and Mrs. Crane have four children, William M., Laura A., Jean, Mary Louise.

Lafayette French, one of the prominent attorneys of Austin, is a native of the "Buckeye" State, having been born in Loraine county, Ohio, November 19th, 1848, and was educated at Oberlin and Hiram Colleges. While in the junior year at Hiram College, he accepted a position as teacher in one of the public schools. After teaching

about a year and a half he resigned his position on account of poor health, and returned to Ohio, and began the study of law at Camdem, near Oberlin, with Boynton and Heath, His health improving he returned to St. Louis and assumed the principalship of one of the public schools of that city. At the end of one year he entered the law office of Judge Holt of that city, and was admitted to the bar in 1870. He came to Austin and engaged in the practice of his profession the same year.

Mr. French has acquired a good practice, is an able lawyer and a valuable citizen. His wife was Mary V. Richards, daughter of William Richards. Mr. and Mrs. French have one daughter, Mamie.

James D. Sheedy is the youngest attorney now practicing in Austin. He was admitted to the bar in 1882, receiving his diploma from Judge J. Q. Farmer. Mr. Sheedy was born in Adams county, Wisconsin, November 21, 1858. When a lad of eight years he came with his parents to Minnesota, the family settling in Oakland, Freeborn county. His studies in the district schools were supplemented by a three years' course at the Austin High school. At seventeen he engaged in teaching. In 1880 he began the study of law with W. H. Merrick, jr., and in 1882 entered the office of Lafayette French. Mr. Sheedy is a single man and lives with his mother in the city of Austin, having removed to this place in 1880. His father died in Oakland, in 1878. Mr. Sheedy was elected Justice of the Peace in the spring of 1884.

L. F. Clauson, attorney and counsellor at law, is a native of St. Ansgar, Mitchell

county, Iowa, where he was born in 1856, he is the son of the Reverend C. L. Clauson, the founder of the Lutheran church at Austin, and one of the earliest ministers of that denomination in Minnesota. When sixteen years of age Mr. Clauson moved with his father to the State of Virginia, where they remained until 1877, when the family came to Minnesota. Mr. Clauson began the study of law at Owatonna with Burlingame and Crandal in 1881, and was admitted to the bar at Mantorville, Dodge County, Judge Buckham presiding in the spring of 1883. Returned to Blooming Prairie in December, where he remained until April, 1884, when he came to Austin, opened an office and engaged in the practice of his profession. Mr. Clauson is a lawyer of much promise, and for the short time he has been here has built up a good practice.

#### LEROY ATTORNEYS.

F. M. Goodykoontz was the first lawyer who entered the village of LeRoy to practice. He came in 1867 from Waukon, Iowa. After one year he formed a partnership with J. M. Wyckoff, who was admitted to the bar at Austin. They continued in company until a year, when Mr. Goodykoontz removed to Nora Springs, Iowa, and from thence to Mason City, Iowa, and in 1884 removed to Dakota. While here he was elected County Attorney, serving one term. J. M. Wyckoff, as just stated, was the second to practice. He carried the first liquor case to the district court from the town of LeRoy, and won it. Joseph McKnight, who was admitted to the bar at Austin, in April, 1882, together with J. F. Trask and J. S. Bishop, constitutes the present attorneys of LeRoy.

W. W. Ranney, attorney and counselor at law, in the village of Grand Meadow, where he located in 1878. He was born in Newburyport, Massachusetts, in 1830. When but nine years of age, he moved with his parents to McLean county, Kentucky, where they lived until their death. Mr. Ranney studied medicine and was engaged in practice for several years. He enlisted in 1861 in the 26th Kentucky Union Volunteers. He was given the rank of second Lieutenant, which he held until April 1862, when he was promoted to a first Lieutenancy for gallant services during the battle of Shiloh. He resigned in November 1862. In the fall of 1864 he came north. In the spring of 1865 he went to Lansing, Iowa, where he studied law, and graduated from the Law Department of the State University in 1876. He then returned to Lansing, Iowa, and engaged in practice for one year, then came to Grand Meadow. Besides his law practice he is engaged in the mercantile business. While at Lansing he was engaged for a while in the drug trade. He is married and has one son and one daughter who is married and resides at Sioux Falls, Dakota.

#### BROWSDALE.

Capt. A. J. Hunt, oldest son of Hiram and Cornelia Hunt, was born May 9, 1833, in Herkimer county, New York. His grandfather, Joseph Hunt, was a *minute man* in the war of 1812, and his grand-father Joseph Hall, was of English extraction. Captain Hunt removed to Lewis county in 1837. He received an academic education in Lewis county, New York. After leaving school he followed school teaching a short time. He emigrated with his brother, J. J. Hunt, in

1854 to Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, where he again taught school. In the spring of 1858, he entered the law office of Smith & Ordway, as a student at law. He continued his studies with them until the autumn of 1860. When the war of Rebellion broke out, he was commissioned by Governor A. W. Randall, of Wisconsin, as recruiting officer. He took an active part in recruiting the 7th and 16th regiments of Wisconsin Infantry. September 10, 1861, Mr. Hunt joined the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry, commanded by Col. E. Daniels, and with Captain R. H. Chittenden raised and organized company "E." of that regiment, at which time he was unanimously elected first Lieutenant, and on the 17th day of March, 1862, started for St. Louis, Missouri. He served with his regiment in the department of the Missouri, until the summer of 1862, when he was ordered to return to Wisconsin to fill a requisition for recruits for his regiment. After enlisting the number desired, he returned with them to the front. On the 16th day of July, 1862, he was commissioned Captain of his company, which he commanded until leading a column at night, he rode against a leaning tree, from the effects of which it was thought he was fatally injured, and he returned home. He left Beaver Dam, for Mower county, Minnesota, April 15, 1865. He located in Waltham township, and opened up a new farm. He was elected chairman of his township board two terms. Captain Hunt received the nomination for Sheriff in Democratic convention. Although his opponent was elected, he ran over 400 votes ahead of his ticket. In the fall of 1873 he sold his farm and removed to the village of Brownsdale.

He was elected chairman of the board of supervisors of Red Rock township in 1874, and was subsequently elected to the same office. During his residence in Brownsdale he has been engaged in the practice of law, and dealer in real estate. He was married to Miss Alice A. Fellows, on the 30th day of August, 1858, at Madison, Wisconsin.

She is a native of Herkimer county, New York. Their children are: Fred G. W. Charles A., Gertrude H., Cora A., Nellie E., Eddie H., Florence E. Captain Hunt is a member of Henry Rogers Post No. 11, G. A. R., at Brownsdale, of which he is a charter member.

## CHAPTER VII.

### THE NEWSPAPER PRESS.

Mower county had been organized about two years before a paper was printed within its borders. Several attempts or efforts were made to secure the establishment of a paper but each failed. Finally David Blakely, who was then publishing a paper called the *Pioneer*, at Bancroft, Freeborn county, was induced to come to Austin and establish

#### THE MOWER COUNTY MIRROR.

The consideration of this removal, it is said, was the election of Mr. Blakely to the office of Register of Deeds of Mower county. Bancroft, where Mr. Blakely had been engaged in the publication of the *Pioneer*, was an embryo village, located a short distance northwest of Albert Lea. It was then a competitor against Albert Lea for the county seat honors, and Mr. Blakely's paper took an active part in the fight, which finally resulted in Albert Lea securing the coveted prize. Early in the fall of 1858, the office was re-

moved to Austin, and with the same material the Mower County *Mirror* was brought into existence. The head of the new paper was delayed in reaching here, and for several weeks the paper was issued at Austin bearing the old head, "Bancroft *Pioneer*." C. H. Davidson, the present postmaster at Austin, and editor and proprietor of the *Transcript*, rolled the forms and "stuck type" for the first issue of the *Mirror*, then being a lad of eleven years of age. During the years 1859 and 1860 Mr. Blakely held the office of Register of Deeds, and continued the publication of the paper. Finally, early in the fall of 1860, Mr. Blakely removed the press, type and material to Rochester, and there established the Rochester *Post*.

After the publication of the *Mirror* ceased Mower county was without a paper for several months. The want of a newspaper,

however, was soon supplied by the establishment of

THE MINNESOTA COURIER.

This newspaper first saw the light of existence in the winter of 1860-61. The first issue made its appearance on the 5th of December, 1860, as a six column folio, all published in Austin. The founder was B. F. Jones. Among the home advertisers in the first issue were the following: Attorneys, Aaron S. Everest, Allen & Shortt, D. B. Johnson, Jr., G. M. Cameron. Physicians, Drs. J. N. Wheat and Orlenzer Allen; T. J. Lake, county treasurer; Piper & Hunt, blacksmiths; J. S. Lacy, hotel; S. W. Rice, blacksmith; H. B. Kimball, painter; G. W. Bishop, sheriff; E. Parleman, jeweler; H. S. Holt, wagon maker; and G. W. Mitchell, cabinet shop.

In presenting his paper to the public Mr. Jones presented a lengthy salutatory, which he wound up with the following words: "We shall, of course, chronicle passing events of importance. In short, it shall be our aim to make the *Courier* a first-class family newspaper. If we fail it will be because we lack the ability to accomplish it. We now throw our banner to the breeze. We launch out upon the sea of literature, and whether our humble bark shall be borne on with the wave of popular sentiment, her sails freighted with a prosperous gale, or whether the storm of public indignation beat against her and she founder, time, which trieth all things, must determine. Meanwhile we shall remain at the helm and endeavor with all the ability and energy we may possess, to steer clear of each rock and shoal."

In the first issue of the *Courier* there appears a sketch of the village of Austin, which

seems a little extravagant, but it speaks for the pride which the editor felt in the place. In the course of the article he says: "In the southwest corner of Mower county there is a vigorous, thriving and prosperous town called Austin, where there has been transacted during the past year, notwithstanding the hard times, business to the considerable amount of over half a million dollars. Five years ago there was not a framed house on the spot where we to-day look from our sanctum upon four crowded business streets of a quarter of a mile in length, and rapidly pushing each extremity along the fine high bottom of the Cedar River. Austin now numbers between five and six hundred inhabitants; seven good stores, well stocked; five lawyers; one watch and jewelry establishment; two good doctors; one good hotel; one grist and two saw mills; two cabinet shops; two wagon shops; three fanning mill shops; two blacksmith shops; one tannery; one drug store; three shoe shops; and a host of other institutions which our space will not admit our mentioning this week. There is another fact that perhaps more than any other will add to our present prosperity: That is our railroad connections. The Minneapolis & Cedar Valley railroad, the entire line of which is graded and almost ready for ties, passes through Austin. This road, we have no doubt, will be let this winter to a responsible company, and completed the coming season. The Prairie du Chien & Mankato railroad makes Austin a point and we have every reason to believe that this company will make every exertion in their power to secure the completion of their road to this point at an early day. Altogether,

considering its salubrious situation and the tide of emigration which is setting in and around us, it takes but a dull prophet to foretell for Austin a permanent and flattering prosperity."

During the first few months of the paper's existence a good deal of space was devoted to the discussion of war measures. The country was just upon the eve of the great war. In the issue of May 8, 1861, it was stated that "about twenty-five of the patriotic citizens of Austin and vicinity have enrolled their names and now hold themselves in readiness for their country's call. All patriotic citizens are requested to come forward and do likewise."

The following item from the issue of June 19, 1861, shows the difficulties under which the country newspaper men of those days labored: "Our paper does not look as well as we would like to have it look this week, but the warm weather has melted our new roller and this is the best we can do for the present. By the time our paper is ready for press next week we will try and have a new one."

The publication of the *Courier* was continued until the 4th of January, 1864, when it ceased to exist. The editor, B. F. Jones, had gone into the service, and his father, William C. Jones, took charge and managed the paper for some time previous to the last issue.

#### THE AUSTIN REGISTER.

The first issue of the Mower County *Register* made its first appearance on the 2d day of July, 1863. H. R. Davidson was editor and proprietor. The paper was then a six-column folio sheet, all printed at home.

The subscription price was \$1.50 per year.

Its first number contained the following salutatory:

"We greet you to-day with a new paper. This greeting, we trust, is an event in our own and in your history. That our relations with the people of Austin, Lansing, Brownsdale and other towns, will be interested and profited by what we confidently expect.

The design of the publisher is to print a county paper that will be a valuable text book to every farmer and business man in and about Austin. One containing local items from all points in the county, including the towns of LeRoy, Nevada, Lansing, Brownsdale and Frankford, and thus give our paper a large circulation and make it a valuable medium for advertising. We shall publish a corrected list of the market reports each week, which our friends in the country can rely upon. We shall also favor our readers with army correspondence from those portions of the field where Mower county boys are located.

The latest news each Wednesday evening via. St. Paul, will be obtained for publication in time for the issue of the morning.

Our paper will be Republican in politics, always battling for constitutional liberty, the union of the states and free government. "Friends, here is our paper; does it suit you? If so, please to give it your encouragement and *the benefit of your purse!*"

Among the advertisements in the first issue were the following:

W. Truesdale, Farm Machinery.

Allen & Shortt, Aaron S. Everest and H. R. Davidson, Attorneys.

H. Jacobs, Manufacturer and Dealer in Ready-Made Clothing.

J. S. Lacy, Proprietor Lacy House.

V. P. Lewis, Hardware Dealer.

LANSING ADVERTISEMENTS.

Hartly & Sons, Flow Manufacturers and Blacksmiths.

"Western Home House," S. T. Wells, Proprietor.

E. F. Armstrong, Manufacturer of Gent's Boots and Shoes.

BROWNSDALE CARDS.

Thomas Allred, Boot and Shoe Store.

Heath House, R. C. Heath, Proprietor.

One of the local items in the 2nd issue, was the following: "We want no Jeff. Davis!"

H. R. Davidson continued the management of the paper until his death, which occurred May 4, 1864. At this time C. H. Davidson, a brother of the founder, took charge of the paper, and shortly afterward the firm name "C. H. Davidson & Co." appeared at the mast head. H. R. Davidson was a man of much natural ability, and well acquired attainments. He was a lawyer by profession, and was elected to the office of County Attorney of Mower county. In the chapter devoted to the Bar, will be found an extended sketch of him.

With the issue on the 7th of July, 1864, the *Register* closed its first and began its second volume. The name of the firm of C. H. Davidson & Co., was still at the head of the columns as editors and proprietors. In an address to subscribers, published in this issue, appears the following words: "Our readers know what changes one short year

has wrought. The originator, proprietor and first editor of this paper has finished his labors on earth. We have been called upon to take up and carry along the work."

In the issue of July 14, 1864, it is announced that James T. Wheeler, of St. Charles, Ill., had become associated with Mr. Davidson in the publication of the *Register*. The firm became Davidson & Wheeler. The new member of the firm did not, however, remove to Austin, and in a short time his connection with the paper was severed.

After this C. H. Davidson continued to conduct the *Register* alone, until August 1868, when H. O. Basford purchased a half interest in the paper, and the firm of Davidson & Basford—which for a decade afterward was one of the most prominent in the press circles of the State—was formed. In April, 1871, D. W. Craig became a partner of Davidson & Basford in the publication of the *Register*. The firm became Craig, Davidson & Basford, and the name of D. W. Craig, for a short period, appeared at the head of the columns as editor. Mr. Craig retained his interest in the paper for about one year. He was a native of the Empire State, and came here from New York City for his health. After a consultation with the proprietors of the *Register* it was thought that the business could be so extended as to be profitable for the three, so he purchased a third interest. But after a time, it was found that the country was too new to make the enterprise financially satisfactory to three, so he withdrew. From here Mr. Craig went to New York.

Daniel W. Craig was born February 4, 1839, at Erie, Pennsylvania. The first

twelve years of his life was spent in his native State. Thereafter he lived in New York, excepting one year, which he spent at North Bennington, Vermont, and two years in Austin, Minnesota, which dated from February 1871, to August 1873. He came to Austin in April 1871. During his stay at Austin he held an interest in the *Austin Register*, of which Basford and Davidson were also part owners.

Mr. Craig received a common school education, and entered a railway office at fourteen years of age, as clerk and office boy. Afterward he became General Freight Agent, and many years Cashier of the Long Island Railway. Subsequently he was Chief Clerk and Cashier of the Bennington, Rutland & Lebanon Springs Railway. Since 1874, he has acted as a clerk in the Police Department of the city of New York, part of the time reporting, by short hand, the trials of officers by the Board of Police.

He came to Minnesota on account of ill health. He says in a letter to the author "the genial climate of Minnesota, and a lazy (?) life there, gave a new lease to it. Fond of books, and an occasional contributor in the leisure moments of a business life, to various newspapers and periodicals, I passed the hours pleasantly and regained my health." After his return to New York, he was made Purser of steamer "Jane Mosley," by the same man into whose office he had gone as a boy twenty years before.

Mr. Craig had the respect of the whole community about Austin, though but a short sojourner there.

June 29, 1871, the name was changed to the *Austin Register*.

After the withdrawal of Mr. Craig, Davidson & Basford continued the publication of the *Register* until June 13, 1878, when that firm was dissolved, C. H. Davidson selling his interest to H. O. Basford.

Mr. Davidson, in his "good-bye article," published in the *Register* of June 13, 1878, said:

"Fifteen years ago the 2d day of July, the first number of the *Register* was issued. The type for that number were set mostly with my own hands, and the edition worked off on a hand press by myself. In fact when but a boy eleven years old I rolled the forms of the first newspaper sheet which was ever issued from a press in Mower county—Dave Blakely's Mower County *Mirror*—twenty-one years ago, and with the exception, perhaps, of three years, I have been engaged in newspaper work in Austin since that time. I can, probably, truthfully say that I have published the same paper continuously for a longer time than any other person in Southern Minnesota; except Mr. Sinclair, of the *Winona Republican*."

After retiring from the *Register* Mr. Davidson purchased an interest in the *Transcript*, of which he is the present editor and proprietor.

In the same issue H. O. Basford greeted his readers as follows:

"The *Register* will continue to be published as heretofore in the same old place, but with increased facilities for doing good work; and the readers will be given a larger paper than before. \* \* \* Having lived in Austin for about ten years, and all that time been connected with this paper, it seems unnecessary to introduce myself to the read-

ers of the *Register*, or the people of Mower county; but I will say that I shall try to publish a good local paper, got up in better shape than ever, and by sticking to the golden rule of "doing by others as you wish to be done by," hope to merit a share of public patronage. The *Register* will be independent in politics; tied to no party or clique, and its columns ever open to the public for the discussion of all matters pertaining to the public good."

Since that time Mr. Basford has been sole editor and proprietor of the *Register*. The paper from the first has had a steady growth in circulation and influence, and to-day is one of the leading county papers in the State. The office is well equipped with all the modern machinery and improvements, having a power press, steam engine, job presses, etc. The *Register*, like all other papers, has changed form and size a number of times in its past history; but as now published it is an eight-column folio. -

In August, 1883, the *Register* office with the balance of Basford's brick block fell to the ground, causing a great loss to all the owners. The cause, it is supposed, was the the poor quality of stone used in the foundation of the building. The ruins of the *Register* office were graphically reviewed by Mr. Basford the following week, August 9, 1883, and the same is here inserted.

"On last Monday morning it was discovered that the central wall of the foundation of Basford's block was giving away, and workmen were at once set to work to secure the building by bracing up the weakened parts. No one apprehended any immediate danger, and business in the block was not

suspended. At noon, however, the breach in the foundation walls had increased to 20 feet, and the situation became more serious. Notices were posted at the doors leading upstairs, and no person was allowed to go up, as it was thought that the front wall was liable to fall. It was thought the rear of the building would be perfectly safe, and after dinner the compositors of our office resumed work in the composing room in the third story. Upon examination it was found that a second interior foundation wall was crumbling, and the building gave unmistakable signs of speedy dissolution. The fire in our engine was extinguished, and the building abandoned by the *Register* folks to await developments. We had not long to wait, for the last typo had not left his case one minute before the immense pile of masonry collapsed, and our engine, type and presses crashed through the building to the first floor. Happily, the walls fell inward, and as everyone had left the building, none were crushed in the ruins. Mr. P. B. Basford, father of the editor and part owner of the block, was struck by a portion of the north wall and hurled to the earth, but miraculously escaped serious injury. He has been confined to his room since, but is fast recovering from his bruises.

There were several miraculous escapes. Mr. George Hamburg, who was in J. Solner's dry goods store on the ground floor, owes a debt of gratitude to his nimble legs. He was engaged in packing up goods, preparatory to removal, when our big press started down from the third floor to interview him. George "couldn't stand the press," but rushed out of the rear door just

as a thousand tons of masonry, machinery, etc., came crushing into his late quarters. Had the walls fallen outward, he would undoubtedly have been ground to atoms. The dull roar of the tumbling walls was heard at least a distance of three miles. Hundreds of people rushed to the scene, and the excitement was intense, as it was believed that several persons were buried in the ruins. The hook and ladder company was on the ground, ready for an outbreak of fire, but the thoughtfulness of our foreman, Mr. Marsh, in extinguishing the furnace fire before the fall, rendered fear on that score unnecessary. A hundred willing hands were at work removing the *debris* and saving goods before the dust had cleared away. J. Solner removed his damaged goods to the room lately occupied by Cheap Charley. The *Register* office is at present in Peter Nelson's building on Bridge street, opposite Hanson's shop, where the pied material was carried as fast as recovered from the ruins. C. Whitton occupied the rear of the building as a feed store. Ira Jones had a stock of stoves in the south room of the lower story; Lyman D. Baird occupied the north front room of the second floor as a law office, and Judge Allen occupied the south front room with Superintendent Belden. The *Register* sanctum was on the second floor and the composing and job rooms on the third floor. The Masonic Lodge room, one of the neatest and best furnished in the State, was in the third story and is a total wreck. Absolutely nothing was removed before the crash.

The buildings of A. H. Hill & Co. and J. Gregson on the south were badly damaged

by the pressure of the falling walls, and had to be stayed with heavy timber to keep them from falling. The store room in the rear of Hill's building was crushed in by a mass of falling brick.

As nearly as we can estimate them, the losses sustained by this catastrophe are as follows:

P. B. Basford, on building.....	\$7,000
Ira Jones, on building.....	4,500
J. Solner.....	—
H. O. Basford.....	5,000
Masonic Lodge.....	500
L. D. Baird.....	200
A. H. Hill.....	400
Ormanzo Allen.....	150
J. Gregson.....	75
Mower County.....	50
C. D. Belden.....	50
L. G. Basford.....	25
C. Whitton.....	15

That there was no lives sacrificed is the most wonderful part we have to record. The tumble could not have occurred at a more opportune time. The walls graciously forewarned us by occasionally giving forth signs of disintegration. The plastering would occasionally drop from the walls, the timbers would click, and long crevices appeared in many places. Had the crash come when the Masonic Lodge was in session, or on circus day, the loss of life would have been terrible to contemplate.

Our engine and presses were badly damaged. Our type is a total loss, also a part of our large stock of stationery and blanks. We had a good deal of job work just finished and ready for delivery which went down with the rest. The premium list of the Agricultural Society was nearly ready to be bound, but was so roughly handled in the *melee* that we cannot possibly do anything

with it. Our boom sheet manuscript came out all right, and will be published on time. We went to St. Paul on the evening of the wreck and ordered a new printing office. We do not expect to get around with this issue on regular publication day, but our friends will bear with us, as this blow necessarily knocks us out of time for a day or two. We desire to thank the hosts of friends who have given expression to their sympathy in every way. To our citizens who so nobly pulled off their coats and delved amid the ruins for aught that was of value to us, forsaking their own business to do a charitable act, we feel devoutly thankful. The good will of our people is the major part of our wealth just at present, and when we think upon the unselfish zeal manifested by our friends in their efforts to rescue our stock from total loss, we feel rich indeed. We desire to prove our worthiness of sympathy by doing all we can for the advancement of the interests of the citizens of our city and county. This we cannot do by giving up the ship. We desire our friends to know that we are still on our feet, firm in our belief that success treads upon the heels of misfortune, and that God helps those who help themselves. We desire to especially thank friend Davidson for the courtesy extended in offering us the freedom of the *Transcript* office. We trust we may never be called upon to assist him in like circumstances, but should occasion offer, Charley, we are on deck at any and all times. Again thanking our friends, we take off our coat to the work of bringing order out of chaos, expecting to hear the click of our own presses before a fortnight, as they grind out our regular weekly grist of news to our thousands of readers."

Henry O. Basford was born at Guilford, Maine, April 22, 1833. He was the second son of a family of four boys and one girl. He was of Welch and English extraction; his father's ancestors being Welch and his mother's English. His father, P. B. Basford, moved to Watertown, Wisconsin, in 1848, the subject of this sketch being 10 years old at the time. At the age of 14 he commenced learning the printing business in the Jeffersonian office of W. E. Quiner. After learning the business he entered the Watertown Academical and Preparatory School, and there studied two years. Soon after he became connected with the *Argus and Democrat* office at Madison, Wisconsin, and worked on State printing for two years. He then went to St. Paul in 1856, and was engaged on the *Minnesotian*, but the hard times of 1857 caused him like many others to leave the city. From there he went to St. Joseph, Mo. He was engaged on the *Daily West*, and just before the breaking out of the war, he was one of the pioneers who carried the art of printing across the plains of the West, and was connected with the *Rocky Mountain News*, of Denver, the leading paper then, and, now of Colorado. He was one of the large number who lost their accumulation of years when that office was destroyed by the floods. For eight years afterward he was a miner of gold, and an adventurer among the grand old mountains, and a claim holder in the famous California gulch, where Leadville, Colorado now stands. After leaving Colorado, he was employed upon the *Chicago Tribune*, where he remained until he came to Austin in 1867, and soon thereafter became connected with the *Austin Reg-*

*ister*, of which he is still owner and editor. The *Register* building and office was totally wrecked by the falling of Basford's block in August 1883, but its editor never allowed the paper to miss an issue, but at once bought new material and snatched victory from almost the jaws of defeat, by issuing a brighter and better paper than ever before, together with a "boom sheet" of eight pages, illustrated, giving the advantages of Austin and Mower county. Mr. Basford is a hard working and public spirited man. He is a member of several civic societies, including Masonic and Odd Fellows. He was married September 28, 1876, to Mary E. Miller, of Winona, Minnesota, by whom he has one son and one daughter. Mr. Basford has always been a faithful and true political worker. He was appointed Postmaster at Austin July 2, 1884. When one contemplates the ill fortune and business reverses with which Mr. Basford has met since he first entered an active business life, and then reflects upon the measure of success with which his untiring efforts have been crowned, one must be convinced that nothing short of an unusual determination to do and to achieve in life's great conflict could have accomplished what he has. With a strong will power and self-reliance in the sound judgment he possesses, coupled with all the traits of an upright, manly character, has he been enabled to hold the position in Southern Minnesota and Mower county that he does.

#### MOWER COUNTY TRANSCRIPT.

This paper made its first appearance on the 16th of April, 1868, at the village of Lansing. It was then a seven column folio, neatly printed and well "made up" and ed-

ited. Colwell Brothers were the publishers, and A. J. Burbank editor: From the first the paper had a good advertising patronage. A long salutatory was presented in the first issue, setting forth the causes which led to the establishment of the paper; but at this day it is not best to publish it in history, as it could only arouse the animosities of those days, and perpetuate the feelings which then divided the citizens of the county. Those were the most bitter days in the history of Mower county, and the warfare of the "Page" and "anti-Page" factions, as they were called, brought Mower county into notoriety throughout the whole west. To-day the whole matter has almost been forgotten—or at least the bitterness has, to a great degree, disappeared, and while, in a truthful history, the matter must be mentioned, the less it is dwelt upon the better. The *Transcript* was started in the interest of the Page faction, and the *Register* assumed the "anti" side. A few years later the *Transcript* changed its views and both papers vigorously prosecuted a common cause.

In the first issue of the *Transcript* its political creed was set forth in the following language: "We shall endeavor to maintain and defend firmly and fairly the principles of the National Republican party and express our conviction as far removed from the tenet of conservatism as from the follies of insane radicalism." A few weeks after the first issue the name of Sherman Page is hoisted at the head of one of the columns as editor of the teacher's or educational department. At that time he was county superintendent of schools. A few months later the name of A. J. Burbank is taken from the

columns as editor, and the Colwell Brothers are stated to have succeeded Mr. Burbank. Still later it appears that Prof. J. H. Johnson, Mrs. Maria Doolittle and Miss Ella Cook had charge of the educational columns.

The *Transcript* was published at Lansing until the issue on the 17th of December, 1868, which appears, dated at Austin, the office having been removed to that place. This move was unexpected, as nothing had been hinted that such a change of base was contemplated. The editors stated as their reasons for the transfer—"First, we can publish a better paper here. Second, we can make more money." The Colwell Brothers remained in charge of the paper until the issue of April 1, 1869, when it passed into the hands of Colwell & Boardman. The former, A. N. Colwell, was the senior member of the old firm of Colwell Brothers. Henry R. Boardman had been in the newspaper business before this, having been connected with the publication of the *Mazonian*, and subsequently the Richland county *Live Republican*, both in Wisconsin. He had come to Minnesota about a year previous, and had given a helping hand in the starting of the *Transcript*, and had ever been in sympathy with its avowed principles. A few weeks after the change of proprietorship the paper was enlarged to a nine-column folio, and became at that time the largest paper in the county, and one of the largest in this portion of the State. For several months during the summer of 1869, the paper is run without any name or names at the head of its editorial columns, but finally in the issue on the 30th of September, 1869, the announcement is made that "George W.

Wright assumes the editorial and business management." He retires with the issue of November 25, 1869, and was succeeded by Geo. H. Otis. At that time the *Transcript* was owned by what was called the Transcript Company. The sudden change in the editorial chair is explained in the issue of November 25th, that Mr. Wright was called east by the death of a member of his family in Ohio, which so complicated his affairs that it was impossible to return. In speaking of him in their explanation of the affair, the company said: "Mr. Wright came to us bearing high testimonials of ability and integrity, and in coming severed a profitable relation with one of the leading newspapers in the country, the *Toledo Blade*. He was also unqualifiedly endorsed by the proprietors of the *Evening Wisconsin*."

George H. Otis, who succeeded Mr. Wright, came highly recommended by St. Paul parties. He conducted the paper alone, until the issue of the 2nd of March, 1871, when Col. C. A. Lounsberry secured a half interest in the paper, and the firm of Lounsberry & Otis was formed. Mr. Lounsberry took the editorial and Mr. Otis the business management. Col. Lounsberry only remained connected with the *Transcript*, until the 25th of May, 1871, when he withdrew.

C. A. Lounsberry was born at Wilmington, DeKalb county, Indiana, March 27, 1843. He resided in that vicinity in Ohio and Indiana, until fifteen years of age when, his parents and guardian having died, he went to Calhoun county, Michigan, where he remained at work on a farm, until the war broke out. He then went into the service

as a private, and after a series of promotions was on March 27, 1865, made Colonel of the regiment in which he enlisted as a private. In April, 1866, he came to Minnesota and engaged in sheep raising near Fairmont, Martin county. He was elected County Auditor of that county, and held the office until his removal from the county, in 1869. In April, 1868, Colonel Lounsberry commenced the publication of the *Martin County Atlas*, which was continued until removed to Wells in December, 1869, where he continued the publication under the name of the *Wells Atlas*, until July 1872, when he leased it, and accepted an editorial position on the *Minneapolis Tribune*, which he resigned in June, 1873, in order to commence the publication of the *Bismarck Tribune*. In the meantime, as stated, he was for a short time interested in the publication of the *Austin Transcript*.

After the withdrawal of Col. Lounsberry, Geo. H. Otis continued the management of the *Transcript*, until the 31st of August, 1871, when the paper was purchased by A. A. Harwood.

Mr. Harwood owned and ran the *Transcript* for a number of years. On the 23d of July, 1874, the paper was changed to an eight-column folio, having for some years been smaller. During the spring of 1877 S. C. Eldred becomes associate editor and business manager. Mr. Harwood had become postmaster of the Austin office, and Mr. Eldred, who had been foreman of the office, was taken into partnership. His connection with the paper in that capacity, however, was brief, and Mr. Harwood again assumed sole charge. In this shape the

paper was continued until the issue on June 13, 1878, when the paper and outfit was purchased by C. H. Davidson and J. N. Wheeler, and the name of the firm Davidson & Wheeler appears at the head of the columns, succeeding that of A. A. Harwood. The latter gentleman is treated at length elsewhere in this volume. He was a man of ability and energy, and did much toward building up the *Transcript*. Like all active men, and especially those in the newspaper profession, he had enemies, and the vigorous policy which he pursued, and the "side" which for a number of years he advocated, was calculated to make many of them. In his official career he was, in some respects, unfortunate, to say the least, yet it is but just to say that he was a man of ability and prominence, and one who took an active interest in all matters relating to the public good. Mr. Harwood died at Washington, D. C., August 17, 1884.

Judge Harwood went to Austin in August, 1871, to take charge of the *Austin Transcript*. He was county superintendent of schools for some time, and was postmaster for three years just previous to 1880. He sold the newspaper in 1880. In January, 1881, through Alexander Ramsey's influence, he secured a position in the war department, Washington. He held this position until his death. He leaves a widow. His only son, Willie, died some time ago. While living at Austin he became one of the most prominent antagonists of Judge Sherman Page in his notorious quarrel.

Davidson & Wheeler conducted the paper until the 2d of January, 1879, when C. H. Davidson purchased his partner's interest,

and has since been sole editor and proprietor. The *Transcript* is now on a good basis, and Mr. Davidson has increased the circulation to a point second to no county paper in Southern Minnesota. It is the only straight-out Republican paper in the county. At the present time it is an eight-column folio. The office is well equipped, and is prepared to do all classes of work in the printing line.

Charles H. Davidson, youngest son of Joshua L. Davidson, was born at Libertyville, Lake county, Ill., March 15, 1846. When a small boy, his parents moved to Rockford, Illinois, and from that place to Winona, Minnesota. When eleven years old, he came with his father, brothers and sister to Austin, his mother having died while they lived at Rockford. This was in 1857, when he first came to the then new, wild town of Austin, which was to be his future home, and where, as the past has testified, he was to achieve success in the great conflict of life. Soon after coming to Austin he went into the first newspaper office in Mower county for the purpose of learning the "Art Preservative." It was he, who rolled the first form upon which was printed the first paper—the *Mirror*—in the county. He worked as a general office hand in the *Mirror* and *Courier* offices, until 1861. He was then 15 years old, and he went to St. Paul, where he engaged on the *St. Paul Press*, having previously worked on the Rochester (Minn.) *Post*, for a few weeks. After a few months in St. Paul he traveled about from city to city, as a printer, during which time he worked in Dubuque, Iowa, Peoria, Ill., Springfield, Ill., and Cleveland, Ohio. In 1863, Herman R. Davidson, his brother, who

had graduated from Oberlin, started the *Mower County Register*, and the subject of this sketch was in company with him. His brother's health failed, and after nine months he died, and the paper was then conducted by C. H. until 1868, when H. O. Basford became a partner on the paper, and continued for nine years. Mr. Davidson then sold to Basford, and in a week's time purchased the *Transcript*. This was in 1878, and he has edited that journal ever since. He was married March 15, 1866, to Mary Wheeler Davidson, who was the widow of his brother Herman, who died while editor of the *Register*. They have three children—Charles H. Jr., Mary Ethel, and James W.

Mr. Davidson has been a very active man in public as well as private life. To him the people have looked for a leader, and have not been misled. In 1869 he was appointed Postmaster, at Austin, serving two years. He was again appointed, May 1, 1880, holding it till July 1, 1884. He was the last township clerk, before Austin was incorporated. He is a member of the Congregational Church, and ranks high in Masonry, having taken all the degrees conferred by the Austin Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery. He was Secretary of the various Masonic Lodges to which he belonged, for a long term of years, and filled the position in an acceptable manner. He was the first Recorder of St. Bernard Commandery K. T., of Austin, and is now of the Austin Royal and Select Master's Council. Besides his membership with the Masonic orders, he is an Odd Fellow, and was their Noble Grand at one time.

He was a member of the first Editorial

Convention held in Minnesota, in 1867. The writer of local history is seldom prompted to write such words of praise and commendation as seem befitting to this man's life and character. In every respect, is he a self-made man. He grew up at the printer's case, as it were, and through his untiring vim and ambition to accomplish and win, he has attained a dignity of character and a standing among his fellow men, which would indeed do credit to men who have had other aids than those of their *own hard work*, to elevate them to so exalted a station among men. He is a peculiarly constituted man—one who has a quick conception of everything to which his attention is directed. Whether in business life, in civic capacity or politically, he is the same practical, far-seeing, correct man. Always busy, yet never in too great haste, he is always ready to entertain and aid his friends, and to help in any work of a benevolent or public character.

THE AUSTIN DEMOCRAT.

This newspaper was first issued on the 8th of July, 1868. The founders were Isaiah Wood and Milo Lacy. The paper was an eight column folio sheet, all published at home, and very neatly printed. The following extract from the salutatory, which was presented, will show the grounds, politically, upon which the new paper proposed to stand: "The necessity of a good democratic newspaper has long been felt in Mower county, and has never been more imperitively demanded than at the present time. How well the *Democrat* will fill that necessity must be left for the future to decide. In times like the present, when the entire sys-

tem of our government is being changed and legislation perverted by corrupt politicians to further party ends, and for self-enrichment, every patriot should be awake to the dangers that overhang our free institutions, and it shall be our endeavor, through a conservative course, to show up some of the shortcomings of the corrupt radical leaders. Our laws should be so interpreted or changed that the government may pay off the bond holders in the same kind of money you and I receive for our toil; the same that the soldier, the widow and the orphan receive from the government; the same which the government received for its bonds, and the same which the act of Congress, creating a currency, provides for, and thus reduce the expences of the government. The National Bank issue should be withdrawn and greenbacks substituted in their place, thus reducing the national debt \$300,000,000 and saving \$20,000,000 annually in interest. \* \*

\* We shall oppose negro suffrage for the same reasons for which Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln opposed it. We do not desire to see a retrograde movement in politics, but should like to see some of the honest old time, liberty-loving principles of Jefferson again worked into public opinion."

The firm of Wood & Lacy continued the publication of the *Democrat* until February 23, 1869, when Milo Lacy, on account of ill health, withdrew from the firm, and was succeeded by a Mr. Cook.

Milo Lacy, the retiring partner, was born in Geauga county, Ohio, on the 14th of October, 1841. He lost his father when he was but a few weeks old, and in about twelve years later his mother died. He then came

west to Iowa, where he arrived in the fall of 1853. Shortly after he commenced learning the printer's trade, which he completed in the office of the *McGregor Times*. He was there engaged in 1862, when he enlisted in the United States naval service, and was assigned to the gunboat *Genesee*, then engaged in the blockading service off Charleston, and subsequently in the first assault on Vicksburg and the siege of Port Hudson. After serving a little over a year and gaining promotion he was discharged by reason of the expiration of the term of enlistment, when he returned to *McGregor*, where he shortly afterward enlisted as a recruit in the Seventh Iowa Cavalry, which was sent to the plains. He soon distinguished himself by true soldierly qualities and was promoted to the position of first sergeant. He participated in a number of trying campaigns and battles, remaining in the service until his regiment was disbanded in the spring of 1866, when he returned to *McGregor*. In December, 1866, he was married to Miss Jennie Hines, and shortly afterwards purchased the *Union* office in connection with Isaiah Wood, afterwards of the *Austin Democrat*. They published the *Union* up to June 24, 1868, when they sold out and established the *Democrat* as stated. His health failing caused his retirement from the newspaper field and removed to West Union, Iowa, where he died of consumption June 25, 1869.

On the 11th of October, 1870, Isaiah Wood, the senior editor of the *Democrat*, after a prolonged illness, died of quick consumption, aged a little over 28 years. Mr. Wood was born in Jennings county, Indiana, in August, 1842. While yet a child, he re-

moved with his parents to Wisconsin; thence to Rochester, Minnesota, in 1854, and soon afterward to Decorah, Iowa. In 1858 he was influential in starting a weekly paper, called the *New Oregon Plain Dealer*, he being then only sixteen years of age. Disposing of his interest in that paper, in 1859, with others he began the publication of the *McGregor, Iowa, Times*. Selling his interest in that paper also, before long he returned to Decorah, where he was employed until the war broke out, mostly in the office of the *Republican*. In the spring of 1861 he enlisted as a common soldier in Co. F., 3rd Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry. After completing his term of service, he veteranized, enlisting in what was known as the "Veteran Regiment." At Atlanta he was captured and for four long months suffered the horrors of a rebel prison. With Sherman he marched to the sea, and when peace was restored, he was honorably discharged. In the winter of 1865-6, Mr. Wood purchased the office of the *Minnesota Courier*, at Austin, and established the Fayette county *Union*, at West Union, Iowa. This paper he published for two years or more, when he was induced to remove to Austin, where in July, 1868, in company with Milo Lacy, he commenced the publication of the *Austin Democrat*. He remained connected with this paper until the time of his death. In one of the comments upon his sad death, it is said: "In the editorial profession he was a bright and shining light, and among the craft he was recognized as one of the best workmen. Full of life, energy and perseverance, he had but fairly started in his career of usefulness, when death called him

from his labors. He left behind him a wife who, in this, her deep grief, has the sympathy of the community."

In November, Milo McWhorter purchased the Wood interest in the *Democrat*, and the firm became McWhorter & Cook. In a short time, however, Mr. McWhorter became sole proprietor and conducted the paper alone, until its publication was suspended. The last issue was that of July 12, 1871.

After the November election, 1869, Democratic stock took a sudden rise. The Austin *Democrat* in its issue of November 2, gave way its feeling in the following manner: First comes the streaming head line—"Election News! Glorious Triumph!" "Dinna, ye hear the Slogan!" Following this is placed the picture of a rooster, and it is said—"Let our Democratic cock crow!!" Then is placed the picture of a very sick chicken, and it is stated, that this illustrates the "appearance of Judge Austin, the Radical candidate for Governor, after he got through the contest." Then follows the cut of a flag and two lightning rods, to conduct off the electric fluid and show "where the lightning ran down that hit!" Under the head of "Let millions rejoice!" is placed a rat lying on its back, and it is stated that "The 'Old Rat' has pe-yunked!" Here is placed a tree, up which a snake has crawled. Upon the left appear the words, "Sting him in the vital parts!" On the right—"The 'copper-head' serpent!" The last illustration is that of a big Dutchman blowing a bugle, from the end of which issues the following poetry:

"Blow the trumpet!  
Sound the hew-gag!  
Beat the ton-jons!  
Rattle the tanjans!

"For they shall gnaw a file and flee unto the mountains of Hepsidam, where the lion roareth and the whangdoodle mourneth for her first born!"

"Minnesota greets Wisconsin and answers back in thunder tones to Democratic New York! Radical Barnacle rings laid out everywhere! Fifty thousand Democratic majority in New York!—(we guess!) The Radical Barnacle ring badly scooped in Chicago—(we believe!) The State capitol ring in Wisconsin buried beyond resurrection—(we hope!) The Radical Barnacles and corruptionists scooped clean out in Minnesota—(or ought to be)!"

#### THE INDEPENDENT.

This paper was established at Austin on the 26th of August, 1874, by B. F. Jones, formerly editor of the *Minnesota Courier*, as editor and publisher, and G. W. Haislet, proprietor. The publication of this paper was continued until May, 1875, when it died.

#### THE MOWER AND FILLMORE COUNTY REPUBLICAN.

The Mower County *Republican* appeared August 27, 1875, printed at Preston, Minn., with T. F. Stevens as editor and A. E. Meigs, business manager. Five or six weeks thereafter Maj. W. A. Hotchkiss removed the Fillmore County *Republican* to Austin, and consolidated it with the first named paper, as the Mower and Fillmore County *Republican*.

Maj. W. A. Hotchkiss, the founder of this paper, was born in Whitehall, N. Y. Having served an apprenticeship at the printing business, he followed the same uninterruptedly until 1846, when he volunteered in the Mexican war. After the close of that war he fol-

lowed his profession at Albany, N. Y., and served one term in the Legislature as assistant sergeant-at-arms. He came to Minnesota in May, 1854, and commenced the publication of the *Northwestern Democrat* at Minneapolis, the population then being less than fifty. This was the first paper published west of the Mississippi river, in the then Territory of Minnesota. After four years he sold it and moved onto his farm in Wright county. At the breaking out of the rebellion he organized a battery and was commissioned captain. For good conduct in the battle of Stone river, he was breveted major by Gen. Rosecranz, and given command of an artillery brigade of three batteries. He was subsequently given an independent command, with headquarters at Philadelphia, Tenn., where he remained until the close of the war. In 1866 he purchased the Fillmore County *Republican*, which he ran for a number of years; after which for a time he followed his profession in Austin and Minneapolis, and finally returned to Preston, where he is now editor and proprietor of the *National Republican*, a greenback labor organ.

#### THE LEROY INDEPENDENT.

This newspaper, which has changed hands many times since its establishment, was founded by a man named Haynes in 1875, as the "LeRoy *News*." He continued it for about six months and sold to C. B. Kennedy, who was its editor and proprietor for three years and then leased the office to James A. Henderson, who managed it a year, with C. F. Burdick as assistant for about three months. J. S. Bishop then purchased the office and operated the same nearly three years, and then sold to J. McKnight, who took posses-

sion April 16, 1883. He is still editor and proprietor. The paper is in its tenth volume and is a paying piece of property, having a circulation of 600. In form and size it is an eight-column folio, one half printed at home. It has always been just what its name indicates—*independent* in all things. A good job office is run in connection with the paper.

Shortly after the first number of the *News* was issued, in the spring of 1880, B. F. Langworthy & Son established the Grand Meadow *Mercury*. They ran it here for a little over one year, then removed it to Austin. In the early summer of 1882 the paper was removed to Spring Valley, Fillmore county, where B. F. Langworthy & Son still publish it under the name of the Spring Valley *Mercury*.

Joseph McKnight, attorney at law, and present editor and publisher of the LeRoy *Independent*, was born of Southern parentage, on the 8th day of June, 1837, at Wayne, Lafayette county, Wisconsin, then a territory; was reared on a farm and managed his father's estate for two years, while he was in California, and when but fifteen years old, superintended its settlement, a year later, upon his father's death, his mother having died when he was eight years old. Attended school at Hillsdale College, Michigan, most of the time from 1856 to the spring of 1861. Married his wife, *nee* Eliza F. Spokesfield, on the 31st day of October, 1858. Enlisted in the Fifth Wisconsin Battery Volunteers on the 9th day of September, 1861, ranking eighth gun sergeant. Was soon after promoted orderly sergeant, and successively through the lieutenantcies to captain in the fall of 1864, having commanded the battery many months before promotion to captaincy.

Was breveted major of volunteers for gallant service at Bentonville, North Carolina. Served throughout the war of the rebellion, with his command participating in every battle, in which it was engaged to the number of forty-one battles, and skirmishes of no small magnitude. Was mustered out of the United States service on the 20th of June, 1865. After leaving he went with Sherman to the sea, through Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia, to Washington, participating in the grand review. In the fall of 1865 he moved to Bennington, Mower county, Minnesota, with his wife, and entered upon the development of a stock and grain farm. Taught school the three following winters, two first winter terms at Washington, Fillmore county, and superintended the preparing of material from the stump for fence on the farm; the third in Bennington. Broke nearly 300 acres of prairie and raised three crops of wheat. The first he sold for \$1.45 per bushel, the second for 98 cents and the third for 68 cents. In the fall of 1869 he bought out R. Hall's interest in the firm of W. S. Coleman & Co., general merchants and lumber dealers at the village of LeRoy Station. Early in January, 1870, purchased the Farmers' Warehouse at LeRoy for the firm. Purchased and shipped produce until January, 1871, when he took charge of and managed one of the firm stores and produce business at Winnebago City, Minnesota, which he continued in until the panic of 1873, when constant shrinkage of values consequent on the government contracting the currency of the country, compelled said firm to wind up their business. Then, until the fall of 1874, he operated produce business at

Winnebago City, Delevan, and Spring Valley, on his own account, and loaded too heavy in options had to lay down \$16,000, about all he possessed, at the shrine of speculation. Commenced reading law in the winter of 1874, working at the carpenter's trade summers, and practicing in justice court, until March, 1877, when he was admitted to practice law in the district courts of Minnesota, and soon after was again admitted to practice in the circuit and district courts of the State of Iowa. Established an office in the village in January, 1878. Has since pursued his chosen profession with success and profit, his practice constantly increasing until he is not obliged to prosecute a client's doubtful case for the sake of pecuniary benefit to himself. He also purchased the *LeRoy Independent*, a weekly newspaper printed and published at the village of LeRoy, in the spring of 1883, and has since divided his time between it and his law practice, editing and printing the same, which he has placed on a firm foundation, and improved much on general make up, as well as making it a source of pecuniary benefit, to at least compensate him for his trouble and expense in maintaining the same, to say nothing of the influence and benefit of a public journal, to his general business and town, run in its special interest, as well as that of good morals and a medium of local and general news.

He has a family of six children, which are receiving and are to receive a liberal education. He is a clerk of the first, regular Baptist Church, of which he has long been an active and consistent member, as well as an ardent, Sabbath School worker, having been

a member of the Bible class of the Sabbath School connected with the church, for years, and its teacher for the two years last past. In politics he is a National, having left the Republican party that he helped to organize when a youth, in 1876, because he despaired of reform within its ranks. He was the National candidate and nominee for Attorney-General in 1880, and polled his full party vote. Also was a delegate at large, and attended the National Greenback Labor party convention, at Indianapolis, Indiana, in May 1884, and is an ardent supporter of General Butler for President. Also was a county commissioner of Mower county from 1867 to 1870, and did much to formulate the chaotic condition of its records, and mode of transacting its business, that prevailed here, as elsewhere in newly organized counties. He is public spirited, and an ardent admirer of the town, and always interested in its welfare and general prosperity.

#### GRAND MEADOW NEWSPAPERS.

The first newspaper at Grand Meadow was called the *News*. It was started in 1878, by the Dunlevy Brothers, who came from Lansing, Iowa. It was Republican in politics; a bright, newsy sheet, and for some time received substantial encouragement. It was run at Grand Meadow for about two years, when it was removed to Lansing, Iowa.

The second newspaper at Grand Meadow was also called *The News*. It was established in the spring of 1880, by M. V. Scribner, a photographer. He ran a good little paper here for about one year, then removed it to Fairmont; and later to Wells, Minn. He is now running a daily and weekly paper at Grattan, D. T.

#### THE WEEKLY RECORD.

This bright, newsy little sheet had its first issue in December, 1882. L. G. Moore founded this journal, and is still its editor and proprietor. The form is a folio of a five column size; subscription rates \$1.00 per year. Mr. Moore in his first number says:

"In presenting the first number of a newspaper to the public, it is customary for the editor to offer with it certain remarks, explanatory of its object and proposed line of conduct. However much it may be glossed over and hid under a flow of words, there was probably no paper ever started with any other object than to make money, or at least a living for the publisher; to do this, different editors pursue different courses. The course we shall pursue is to make just as good a paper as can be made in this village with the facilities at our command. The *Journal* will at all times be an outspoken advocate of the section from which it derives its support. It will endeavor to deal with justice to all, but its patrons may at all times command its favors in proportion to the amount of their patronage. It will be a spicy chronicle of local happenings and as newsy as may be under the circumstances. Politically the *Journal* will be independently Republican, that is, all things being equal, Republicans will be its first choice for office, but if the Republican party shall fail to put their best men in nomination, then the *Journal* will not feel called upon to support inferior candidates, as its primary object is, to be a firm advocate of the rights of the people. With these few brief remarks we offer the *Journal* to the tender mercies of the public, hoping for its favorable reception."

Lucius G. Moore, editor and proprietor of *The Weekly Record*, of Grand Meadow, was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, March 9, 1850. When six years of age, his parents emigrated to Clinton county, Iowa, and in December, 1856, they came to Mower county, and settled in Racine township. The family remained in Racine until 1863, when they went to Martin county, remaining until the grasshopper raid, when they returned to Mower county and settled at the village of Grand Meadow, where Lucius G. engaged in contracting and building, which business he followed until the fall of 1879, when he engaged in the insurance business, which he has since followed, with the exceptions of a few months, when he was engaged in rail-roading. December 23rd he issued the first number of the *Weekly Record*, which paper he still publishes, which has a good circulation. He was married April 11, 1880 to Rosella E. Monroe. She was born at Fort Madison, Iowa, September 13, 1864. They have one child, Alta Belle. July 1st, 1884, was issued the first number of the Brownsdale *Journal*, under the able management of Mrs. Moore, which fills a long felt want in that community. Mr. Moore is a Repub-

lican, and has held local offices. He is a member of the I. O. O. F.

## BROWNSDALE JOURNAL.

Volume 1, number 1 of this spicy, six column folio, made its appearance July 1, 1884. Rosa E. Moore was editress and assistant manager. The subscription price being \$1.00 per year, and the local columns being quite well filled with the current events of the day, it was no more than natural that it should have its share of patronage among the other papers of the county. Mrs. Rosa Moore's maiden name was Monroe. She was born at Fort Madison, Iowa, September 13, 1864. Her parents moved about from one State to another, not living long in any given place. She came to Mower county in 1879, and followed dress-making and the millinery business for a time, and finally engaged in a printing office. She was married April 11, 1881, to L. G. Moore, of Grand Meadow. He founded the *Record* of that place. She aided her husband in that office, till July 1 1884, at which time she started the *Journal* at Brownsdale, which, under her keen management, is fast coming to the front, as a live local sheet.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## EDUCATIONAL.

History has furnished no lens powerful enough for us to discern the beginning of the school system, if system it can be called, that in the dawn of human intelligence first undertook to instruct the young. It appears like some fixed star which is lost in the nebulae of mythology, and is obscured from our eyes in the misty past. We hear of schools of astronomy in Babylon, at least 3,300 years before the Christian era, schools of medicine and science in China but little later. Schools were one of the institutions of Egypt in the time of Moses, and the schools and lyceums of Greece date back to the siege of Troy. But little is known of the mode of teaching in these early days, and it is not until in the fifteenth century that anything like an intelligent effort seems to have been made toward the instruction of the masses.

In our own time and country the history of education has been a varied one. The Puritan had no sooner established himself on the wave-washed, stormy coast of New England, than he planted the precious seed

of the district school, whose foundation was so solid, whose roots were so deep and far reaching, that it secured so strong a foothold, that the storms and trials of two centuries and a half have never disturbed, nor interrupted its course, nor loosened its hold in its native soil.

The system of district schools, as these mighty reformers planted and nourished it, has endured, and does endure to this day, in the land where they first raised the banner of universal education.

This system, with such modifications as were suggested by the difference of time and circumstances, was brought from that far-away land of our forefathers, by them when they turned their faces toward the setting sun, and some of the precious seed, so sown, has found a lodgment in this, our noble State of Minnesota.

It is conceded by all thinking minds that the safety and perpetuity of our republican institutions depend upon the diffusion of intelligence among the masses of the people.

The statistics of the state prisons and poor houses throughout the length and breadth of the land, abundantly show that education is the best cure for crime and pauperism. Education, too, is the great equalizer of human conditions. It places the poor and the rich on an equal footing socially. It subjects the evil passions and morbid appetites of the rich to the restraints of reason and conscience, and thus prepares each for a sphere of usefulness and honor. Every consideration therefore impels us to sustain the common school system of our State to the highest possible degree of efficiency.

An account of the beginning of educational matters in Mower county, which was published in 1875, in the local papers, at Austin, after the scriptural style of chronicles, is here given :

"The first public school was organized at Austin in the summer of 1856, and was held in a log house on Water street, near the residence of Sylvester Smith. It was taught by Miss Maria Vaughan. The following winter school was held in a frame house fixed over for school purposes. It stood on Maple street, a little southeast of where the Fleck House now stands. The next move was made to old "Headquarters," which was regarded extra accommodations. This room was also used for church services. Those were indeed good old times! At the end of the first school exhibition, a paper called "Pearl Gathers," was read on the occasion. One of the articles of that publication was entitled "chronicles," of Austin schools. It was well appreciated, at that time, for every one well knew the allusions therein. We are sure it will bring to mind many a pleasant

recollection, regarding the early days of our now thriving city. Occasionally a word is inserted in brackets, to furnish a key for those who might not otherwise know to whom was referred.

'And it came to pass in the reign of Franklin (Pierce) as the children of Samuel (Uncle Sam) journeyed westward, that they pitched their tents in the valley of the Cedar, to the northward of Osage, one-half a score of leagues; and the report having gone forth that it was a goodly land, the people said one to another, with one accord, let us not be content with the fatness of the land alone; but let us raise up among us certain wise men and women, that our names may not perish with us from the face of the land forever. Now it happened in those days that there lived in that land a certain wise man called Alanson Vaughan. It was that Alanson who afterward became Ruler and Judge of the people. And the people with one accord, said, Let our children go in and out before the daughter of the Judge for the space of three months," and the people said, "It is well." Now it happened in those days that Judge and his family, and all of his substance, went into a far land (Lansing) and the people counseled together, saying, "That the children go in and out other three months before a certain damsel fair to look upon, called Catherine (Conkey) well skilled in the divination of the mysteries of knowledge. Now this was that Catherine sometimes "Kate" and of whom Jeremiah (Yates) the tax gatherer in after years became enamored. And as the people counseled, so it was, and the children grew in stature and knowledge.

Howbeit, after these things there came an

edict from the ruler of the land, saying, "Ye children of Samuel assemble ye yourselves together, and choose ye wise men overseers of the department of education. And when the people assembled, behold dissension arose among them; and certain mirthful men thinking to make light of the matter, said, "Let us have Stephen, Julia, and Imogene to oversee the department of education," notwithstanding that the daughters of the land had never before been chosen. But the people rebuked these men, saying, "Nay verily, but let us have Solomon, Sylvester, and Luther, to rule in the department of learning." And it was so. And the rulers of the department of wisdom said, "Let us have a certain Oberlinite, surnamed Nelson, to instruct our children, for a space." Now it was that Oberlin which was situated on the borders of the Western Reserve, and the people hated Nelson, because he was an Oberlinite. Nevertheless, the children increased in wisdom. Now it happened that the treasury was exhausted, and the people said, "Let Nelson go unrequited." Others said, "Get Solomon, Sylvester and Luther, the overseers of wisdom to part with their substance and compensate the Oberlinite." And still others said, "Nay, but let us tax ourselves, and each man give according as he hath," and the counsels of the latter prevailed. Many gave willingly and others unwillingly, and still others were compelled to part with covering for their habitation. After a little space the overseers of wisdom, Solomon, Sylvester, and Luther, said, "Get that other Oberlinite, surnamed Herman, the son of Joshua (Davidson) to teach yet other three months, and it was so, and the people again

said it is well. And again on the second month and the 16th day of that month, as the people assembled themselves together to choose other overseers of wisdom, they chose Solomon and John, the two Innkeepers, and Orlenzer the dealer in medicines, and the son of Abram, as overseers of wisdom, and they hired one to teach named Eliza, (Allen) and she remained till the summer had come and the land was at peace. So ended the first chapter of the book of "chronicles."

The first school held in the county was that taught in the summer of 1855 by Miss Maria H. Vaughan, now Mrs. Wilder.

The first school house built in the county was the one erected at LeRoy in what is now known as District No. 4.

Owing to the fact that the early school superintendents preserved little or no records of their official acts it will be impossible for the historian to give any accurate account of the condition of the public schools of Mower county, until the administration of C. D. Belden commenced, after which time the records are found to be exceptionally complete. This dates from 1881. The following has been compiled from the records of his office and will serve to show the

#### PRESENT CONDITION

of the schools within the county. This report was made to January 1, 1884:

Number of Districts in County ..	119
Number of Independent Districts in the county .....	2
Number of General Districts in the county .....	117
Number of ungraded schools in the county .....	114
Number of graded schools .....	5
Number of rooms in graded schools .....	20

Number of male teachers in the county.....	40
Number of female teachers in county.....	143
Average wages per month for males.....	\$35 00
Average wages per month for females.....	26 60
Total number of pupils enrolled in the schools of the county..	4,353
Total average attendance.....	2,902
Number of school houses.....	120
Frame.....	110
Brick.....	5
Stone.....	3
Log.....	2
Total value of school houses...\$	111,997 00
Total value of apparatus.....	2,524 00
Number of teacher's certificates granted in 1883.....	284
Number of applications for certificates refused.....	62
Number of first-class certificates..	6
Number of 2d-class certificates..	113
Number of 3d-class certificates..	165

The following general remarks concerning the present condition of the schools and educational affairs of the county was contributed by the superintendent, C. D. Belden:

"The educational interests of Mower county have kept pace with its material progress. Generous school facilities have been furnished in many of the districts, and in most localities there has been an ambition to reach a high ideal in the work of instruction. Two or three causes have existed, which have prevented the largest success, one of which has been a lack of regular attendance, and the other, not enough interest taken by some of the patrons. But there has been a steady progress in the work. Today nearly every school house in the county is a neat frame building, and in good repair, and also provided with suitable maps, charts and other apparatus. Seven months in the

year for school, is the general rule in the county districts.

A successful effort has been made during the past year (1884), to introduce a graded system in all the schools, and a system of records of class arrangement for each term has helped many, much to prevent confusion and loss from the frequent change of teachers. The village schools in Mower county are in an excellent condition; in some a definite course of study for graduation having been adopted. The Austin city schools are among the largest and best conducted in Southern Minnesota. The Austin High School is under the State High School system, and takes high rank in the State examinations. It is expected that five new school houses will be built the present year."

C. D. BELDEN,  
Supt. of Schools.

REPORT OF SCHOOLS IN MOWER COUNTY,  
MINN., FOR THE SUMMER TERM, 1884.

C. D. Belden, Superintendent.

No. of District....	Name of Teacher.	P. O. Address.....	Wages paid. ....
UDOLPHO.			
49	Ella Neller,	Lansing	\$25
50	Hattie Dearborn,	Austin	25
57	Ole Haugen,	B'g Prairie	35
60	Nellie Richards,	Lansing	25
76	Anna M. Hanson,	Austin	25
*111	Emma Washburn,	B'g Prairie	23
LANSING.			
*30	Alice Kearns.	Moscow	20
+43	Alice Padgett.	Lansing	30
44	Mary E Miller.	do	25
45	J. Richardson,	Austin	23
*72	Laura Crosson.	do	24
101	Jessie Simpson,	do	23

No. of District....	Name of Teacher.	P. O. Address.....	Wages paid.....		
				11	Fred Clow, Lyle 32
				56	No summer school.
				87	Edward Evenson, Lyle 28
				104	Agnes Smith, Austin 25
					SARGEANT.
				91	Eliza Sargeant, Sargeant 30
				111	No summer school.
				113	Emm L. Bacon, Brownsdale 27
				114	Lillie Woodward, do 28
					DEXTER.
				78	Cora Chadbourne, Dexter 25
				+86	Nellie C. Spencer, do 30
				98	Wini'd Browning, Brownsdale 25
				106	Hattie C. Rugg, Austin 25
				108	Evan M. Skinner, do 25
					MARSHALL.
				65	O. L. Grandalen, Adams 28
				81	Ella Buck, Dexter 25
				103	Bena S. Taylor, Rose Creek 20
				105	Dora Miner, do 28
					ADAMS.
				6	No summer school.
				7	Nils Anderson, Adams 30
				+8	Myra Maxwell, Lansing 30
				71	Maggie Madden, Adams 28
				72	No summer school.
					PLEASANT VALLEY.
				47	Callie A. Welch, Dexter 25
				48	Winnie Eichhorn, High Forest 25
				*51	N. Feenendahl, Dexter 24
				62	School closed.
				*69	Mary Powers, High Forest 25
				75	Rosa E. Collins, G'd Meadow 25
				94	Hattie Dickinson, do 20
					GRAND MEADOW.
				20	May S Wood, G'd Meadow 25
				21	No report received.
				53	Hattie Medbury, Dexter 21
				69	Nellie Holland, High Forest 30
				+77	{ Manie Sawyer, G'd Meadow 40
					{ Ella Lawrence do 32
				112	Anna Funderhide, do 25
					CLAYTON.
				74	Mary Keefe, Rose Creek 25
				83	Ole N. Grandalen, Adams 25
				109	Louise Wilbright, G'd Meadow 27
					LODI.
				67	Matilda Finhart, G'd Meadow 28
				80	Ada M. Mason, LeRoy 26
				96	Jennie Keefe, Rose Creek 28
				+99	Alma Johnson, Sp'g Valley 35
				100	No summer school.
					NEVADA.
				9	M. O. Anderson, Lyle 25
				10	Delia Anderson, Austin 20
					AUSTIN.
				*6	Winifred Morgan, Moscow 29
				26	H. Waterman, Austin 23
				+27	{ A. W. Rankin, do —
					{ and 10 assistants, do —
				28	Gertie Sherwood, do 25
				20	Addie Teeter, do 25
					Anna Vail, do 25
					LYLE.
				12	Jessie S. Deming, Austin, 22
				13	Eliza Kirby, Rose Creek 25
				14	Sarah Robertson, Austin 22
				15	Emeline Clark, do 25
				54	Della Eddy, Lyle 25
				75	Carrie A. Torrens, Oakland, 22
				+90	Linna B. Evans, Lyle 40
					WALTHAM.
				53	Etta Rockwell, Brownsdale 24
				61	Helen E. Stoddard, do 25
				89	Minnie Hunt, do 26
				93	Claudia Campbell, do 18
				107	Han'h Sodergren, do 25
				110	Emma Dole, do 20
					RED ROCK.
				37	Meda Tilton, Brownsdale 24
				+38	{ H. E. Perrin, do 60
					{ Cora E. Lynch, do 30
				39	Cena I. Lynch, do 28
				41	Nellie Davis, do 25
				42	Anna Stokes, do 23
				68	Rose Grimshaw, Lansing 25
				115	Bertha Case, Austin 23
				116	Mary J. Jordan, Brownsdale 23
					WINDOM.
				22	Maggie Eagan, Brownsdale 23
				23	Jennie S. Shortt, Austin 25
				24	Belle Hunkins, do 25
				+25	W. T. Dudley, Rose Creek 45
				40	No summer school.
				46	Etta Streeter, Austin 20
				73	Minda Ruland, Rose Creek 25
				82	Delia Cronan, do 25
				88	Mary Thompson, do 29

RACINE.		BENNINGTON.		
30	Hattie E. Bonner, Stewartville	26	3 Terisa Walker, Sp'g Valley	25
31	Lizzie D. Carson, High Forest	22	18 Julia A. Kirwin, do	22
32	Winnie B. Clark, Hamilton	22	85 Lona Whicher, do	20
33	Mary A. Kinsley, Dexter	25	92 Jessie Plummer, LeRoy	23
34	Nellie Harris, Hamilton	22	95 Anna Langum, G'd Meadow	24
36	John J. Weeks, Jr. G'd Meadow	25	102 Anna Palmer, LeRoy	23
66	Mary C. Wilson, Hamilton	22		
*126	No returns.			
*127	Mary E. Long, Hamilton	25		
FRANKFORD.		LE ROY.		
†16	Lizzie Anker, Frankford	30	1 Emily B. Engelsen, LeRoy	20
17	Susan E. Russel, Sp'g Valley	30	2 Helen E. Leach, Sp'g Valley	25
19	Kittie L. Bassler, do	20	4 Anna Lukens, LeRoy	25
35	Bernice Van Loan, Hamilton	23	Edw. K. Cheadle, do	70
84	Elsie E. Hurlburt, G'd Meadow	25	+5 Virginia Strother, Crescc	40
97	Lizzie L. Wood, do	20	Nora Martz, LeRoy	30
			52 No summer school.	
			59 Fannie J. Hale, LeRoy	25
			63 No summer school.	
			79 No summer school.	

Districts marked with (\*) are joint districts. A (†) indicates village schools. The last column indicates the number of terms previously taught by the teacher.

## CHAPTER IX.

### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

In health we care but little for doctors, and their formulas and prescriptions; but there is sure to come a time when the brow becomes feverish, and when our vital organs refuse to do their office work—a time, when life's frail thread seems bruised and almost broken. At such a time we seek after the best medical skill, and seem anxious that the "good doctor" watch by our bed side, lest the grim messenger—Death, make his appearance, and calls us hence. In all ages of the world's history, among uncivilized as well as cultured and refined nationalities, the art of healing

has been held in high esteem. Whether it be the learned professor, who has studied all branches of the science of medicine, or the "Great Medicine Man" of the untutored savages, who, from actual experience, have made discoveries of the healing powers of herbs and roots, honor awaits him upon every hand, while the life and death of every human being is virtually placed in his keeping. The weary patient lying upon a bed of pain, and the no less anxious, weary watchers by his side, wait for the coming of the doctor, and on his arrival, his every movement

and expression of countenance is watched for a single ray of hope. The medical fraternity of Mower county have, with a few exceptions, been an honor to the profession. They have ever been ready to respond to the call of duty, mid-summer, intense heat and the freezing blasts of winter. Nothing could cause them to turn a deaf ear to the cry of pain and suffering. They have been compelled to cross trackless prairies, to face blizzards from the northwest, often with no hope of a fee or reward, but only, if possible, to relieve those who pleaded for their care and advice. All this has been done by the practicing physicians of Mower county, and that without a murmur or complaint. If the good deeds of this profession are not remembered by those who have received aid and life at their hands, through such a train of hardships, a time will come when all will be remembered. When the names of such men as Drs. Wheat, Hollister, Kingsbury, Arldoff and others are mentioned in this chapter, it is hoped that the hearts which, perhaps, now beat in robust health, will be touched, and that all of the pioneers will respond "*May God bless them.*"

The first physician to practice in the county was J. C. Jones, who located in Le Roy township, in the spring of 1855. He was a Thomsonian doctor. His wife was also a good physician. They remained until 1866, and then moved to Missouri, where he engaged in farming.

#### AUSTIN PHYSICIANS.

The first physician to locate at Austin was Dr. Orlenzer Allen, who came in April, 1856, practicing till 1870, when he removed to Wisconsin, where he lived until the time of

his death, April 5, 1883. He was a graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago, of the class of 1856. His son, Abraham, a graduate of the same school, is now practicing at Wolsey, D. T., and a younger son, Arthur, is yet a student at the same school. Dr. Allen was a twin brother of Ormanzo Allen, whose name has become familiar with the reader, from his official capacity in county affairs. He was born at Alfred, New York, in 1830, and came west to Wisconsin in 1842. He was a man who had an excellent judgment, and enjoyed the confidence of the entire community. Thus one by one the pioneer physicians are passing away.

The next physician to locate at Austin was Dr. J. N. Wheat, of the Homeopathic school. He came a few months later than Dr. Allen, and has been the greater part of the time a resident of the city ever since. Notwithstanding his age, 66, he still exhibits the fire and vim of prime manhood, and would scarcely be taken to be over fifty. He is a man organized by nature for his chosen profession. His medical schooling was of the most excellent character, and at a time when graduates were not "ground out" in a few months and palmed off onto the community as well-read physicians. He seems to thoroughly understand the human system in all of its fine, complex and intricate parts—in short a real specialist at any and all branches of the medical science. As a practical surgeon there are few who can cope with his skill, as his success in this direction will be attested to by the scores of amputations he has made in Mower county during the past quarter of a century.

Dr. J. N. Wheat, homeopathic physician

and surgeon, has been a resident of Austin, and engaged in the practice of his profession, since September, 1856. Dr. Wheat is of New England parentage and birth, and was born at Old Hadley, Massachusetts, January 16th, 1818. When a child he removed with his parents to St. Albans, Vermont. In 1832 he with his father's family, removed to Cleveland, Ohio, and was educated in the public schools of that city.

In 1847, he went to Geneva, New York, where he married and resided until 1847, when he returned to Cleveland. It was about this time that he first directed his attention to the study of medicine.

The homœopathic system was then in its infancy in this country, and the professors in the homœopathic college at Cleveland, where Dr. Wheat graduated in 1852, were formerly practitioners in the older schools of medicine, so that he had opportunities for receiving instructions in old as well as the new school of practice. While in college he made a specialty of the study of anatomy, and the success which he attained in that branch of science is evident from the fact, that before his graduation, in 1851 he was elected by his class as demonstrator of anatomy.

After graduating he located at Oberlin, Ohio, where he resided until 1856, when he came to Austin. Dr. Wheat has, perhaps, been as long in practice in Minnesota, as any other physician of his school in the State. Dr. Wheat has been twice married; he was married at Geneva, New York, in 1841, to Matilda Jane Dewitt, who died in Oberlin, Ohio, in 1850. His present wife was Julia A Cook, a daughter of Rev. Stephen Cook, the first clergyman of Austin. Mrs. Wheat

was born in New York, January 21, 1826. Dr. Wheat had one daughter by first marriage, Amelia Jane, born October 4, 1842, and died August 19, 1863, and at the time of her death was a student of Oberlin College, Ohio. He had three children by his present wife, only one of whom, Carrie M., is living. She was the first female child born in Austin. The date of her birth was December 6, 1856. She is now the wife of E. G. Bascomb, of Rochester, Minnesota. The children deceased were Edwin E., and Freddie, who died in infancy.

Among the members of the medical profession at Austin, who have practiced for a time, but have now removed or died are Dr. S. P. Thornhill, of the old school practice, Dr. Hiram L. Coop and Dr. W. C. Jones. Dr. Thornhill came to Austin, in 1869, and remained till the time of his death in 1879. He was by nature a keen man, possessing much ability, but he was his worst enemy, for he allowed strong drink to ruin his manhood and hasten him to the grave. The following obituary notice, which was written by Mrs. Ellen Fairbanks, who was a student under him, and at whose house he made it his home, appeared in the *Register* of March 13, 1879:

"Dr. Samuel Payne Thornhill, whose remains we have so recently buried amid the evergreens of our beautiful cemetery of Oakwood, was born in Rockingham county, Virginia March 21, 1821. Left an orphan when a very small child, he was cared for by relatives a few years, and quite early in life thrown upon his own resources for his support and education. He studied his profession in West Carlisle, Ohio; commenced

there with his preceptor and married there. His three children by that marriage were all well known to the people of Austin. While his children were quite young, he removed to Horicon, Wisconsin, and from there to Watertown. There he married again. Two children were the fruit of this marriage. From Watertown he went to Janesville, in 1848, and became a partner of Dr. Treat, afterward quite an eminent physician of Chicago. In 1855, he removed to Hudson, Wisconsin, and there practiced seven years. When the Rebellion broke out, he was made Regimental Surgeon of the 8th Wisconsin Volunteers—the eagle regiment, under Col. Murphy. In 1862 he was promoted to brigade surgeon. He came to Austin in the winter of 1869-70. Since that time he has been known to you, as an energetic, untiring, skillful physician, loved and honored by those who knew him best. If he had faults, he also had virtues. To his friends he was generous, kind and true. A tender father to his children, and second to none in his professional acquirements. His loss to us is a public calamity. He died quite suddenly, having walked home from the other side of the river about two o'clock. Between four and five, was taken with hemorrhage of the stomach, which no remedy seemed potent to arrest. It continued increasing in violence, taking his life-blood and strength, until 9 o'clock Sunday morning, when, without pain, he ceased to breathe."

A FRIEND.

Dr. Hiram L. Coon, another old school practitioner, and a thorough graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago, graduated from that school in 1855. He came to Aus-

tin in 1856, remaining five or six years, and at the present time (1884), he is practicing at Northfield, Minnesota.

Of Dr. Jones, but little is known, except that he lived in Austin during the first years of the rebellion, and had a limited practice. His son was B. F. Jones, at that time editor of one of the local newspapers in Austin. Dr. Jones died about 1879.

W. L. Hollister, M. D., came to Mower county in July 1867, first settling at Lansing, remaining until 1871, when he came to Austin, where he still lives. A more extended notice of Dr. Hollister will be found in the representative chapter.

O. W. Gibson, M. D., has been a resident of Austin since February 1867. Dr. Gibson was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, in 1839. He began the study of medicine in 1859. In September 1861, he entered the United States Navy, as Assistant Surgeon, in which capacity he served in the South Atlantic and West Indies' Squadron, until January 1863. He then entered the army as Assistant Surgeon, was stationed at Bedloes' Island, in New York harbor, and was afterward Post Surgeon at Fort Lafayette, being in the service, altogether, about five years. Dr. Gibson enjoys an extensive and lucrative practice. His wife was Miss C. W. Farmer, a native of the State of New York. They have two children, one son and one daughter.

Dr. James P. Squires, of Austin, has been in practice here since 1873. He is a native of Dofansville, Livingston county, New York, where he was born in 1825. He graduated at the medical department of the University at Buffalo, in February 1851, and went to

Wisconsin in 1853, going into the army as Assistant Surgeon of the 48th Regiment, Wisconsin, Volunteer Infantry. Doctor Squires practiced two years at Blue Earth City, Faribault county, before coming to Austin.

Dr. Thomas Phillips, Homœopathic physician, located at Austin, in May 1882. He was born in Canada, graduated at the Chicago University in 1880, and is also a graduate of Hahnemann Medical College, of Chicago. Mr. Phillips is a young man of good attainments, and promises to make a successful physician.

Dr. Ellen M. (Backus) Fairbanks graduated from the Woman's Medical College, Chicago, in the class of 1881. She had directed her attention to the study of medicine a number of years previous to attending lectures in Chicago, and for one year preceding that time was under the immediate instruction of Dr. Samuel P. Thornhill. Doctor Fairbanks combines a thorough medical and surgical education, with a natural adaptness to the profession. And her professional career has established the fact that woman in the school of medicine may successfully compete with the opposite sex.

She was born in the town of Royalton, Windsor county, Vermont, in 1834. Her maiden name was Ellen M. Backus. She was married in Vermont to Alonso Fairbanks. They removed from Vermont to La Salle county, Illinois, in 1853, and came to Austin from Otranto, Mitchell county, Iowa, in 1859.

C. H. Johnson came to Austin June 16, 1884. He is a native of Canada, born at Farmersville, Leeds county, P. C. January

16, 1855. He graduated from the High school at Almont county, Lanark, after which he engaged in teaching for a time. He graduated from the McGill University, Montreal, in March, 1884. He is of the old school, and came here as the successor to Dr. McDonald, who was also a native of Canada, and a graduate of McGill University. He had practiced here about two years.

#### BROWNSDALE PHYSICIANS.

Dr. Hunter, an elderly man, came to Brownsdale in the fall of 1871. He died of lung fever the following year.

Dr. Fryhmy came from Preston, Minnesota, in the spring of 1871, and remained till the spring of 1874, when he went to California, where he died a few years later.

Dr. Bidell was a graduate of Chicago Medical School. He located at Grand Meadow, remained only a year or two, and removed to Dakota.

Dr. A. S. Britz came to Brownsdale in July, 1876. He was a native of Montgomery county, Indiana, born March 1, 1844. When a small boy his parents moved to Wisconsin, where they remained till 1862, when they removed to Dodge county, Minnesota. In the fall of 1862 he enlisted in the Second Minnesota cavalry. After a time he was detailed on detached service in the hospital. He re-enlisted in the same company, serving until the war closed. He was with the regiment who fought against the Siouxs in Dakota, under Gen. Sibley. While on his return to Minnesota in the winter he was badly frozen, from the effects of which he draws a small pension. After coming home from the service he attended High school at Was-

sioja, and then attended medical college at Chicago. He began his practice at Marion, Olmsted county. He remained at Brownsdale from 1876 to 1880, after which he went to Clear Water, Minnesota. He married Ella (Stevens) Hamlin, of Brownsdale. Her people were old settlers at Brownsdale.

Dr. Hall came from Preston in 1875, remaining only a few months and went to Lake City.

Dr. Minkler, a graduate of a medical college in Canada, came from Westfield, Wisconsin, some time in 1875. He remained but a short time and returned to Wisconsin.

Dr. Dodd came from Rochester, Minn., in 1880. He was a graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago. He had an extensive practice, but failing health obliged him to give it up, and in the fall of 1882 he went to California, but did not live long after his arrival.

Dr. David Kyto came to Brownsdale during the summer of 1883 from Indiana. He was a thorough graduate of an Indianapolis medical school. He only remained a few weeks, leaving for Michigan.

The present physicians of the place are Dr. C. S. Beaulieu, who came in 1880; Dr. Gray, who came in 1883; Dr. Johnson, who came in 1884, and who graduated at Rush Medical school, Chicago, and Dr. Forward, who came in 1884.

Rev. Charles S. Beaulieu, M. D., of Brownsdale, will be more fully mentioned in connection with the Christian church at that place.

CORRECTED BY G. W. GRAY, M. D.

G. W. Gray was born in 1851 of English parentage. He came to Minnesota in 1877

and located at Grand Meadow, where he practiced in his profession until 1883, when he came to Brownsdale, where he is continuing the practice of medicine and surgery. He is a regular practitioner and a successful physician. Mr. Gray was married at Grand Meadow, October 1, 1879, to Miss Viola F. Sebring. He is a member of the Grand Meadow A. F. & A. M. society, and served as police justice while a resident of Grand Meadow, and is a staunch Republican.

Frank M. Johnson, M. D., was born at Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, August 29, 1854. When a child his parents moved to Vernon county in that State, where Frank M. grew to manhood. He attended the High school at Viroqua, also took an academic course at Wayland University in 1876, after which he commenced the study of medicine with Dr. William Gott of Viroqua, remaining about three years, when he entered Rush Medical College, and graduating in the class of 1882. He followed his chosen profession at Ontario in Vernon county one and a half years, when in September, 1883, he came to Brownsdale, Mower county, and engaged in the practice of his profession, which he still follows. Dr. Johnson was married May 18, 1882, to Miss Ida DeLap. She is a native of Ontario, Vernon county, where she was born December 2, 1860. By this union they have one child, Lee F. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are members of the Baptist church.

#### DEXTER PHYSICIANS.

Rollon Simmons was the first physician at Dexter. He came in 1873, remained two or three years and returned to Indiana, his

former home. He was a graduate of the Cincinnati Medical College.

The next physician to locate at Dexter was L. D. Johnson, now of Grand Meadow.

Dr. Cormick practiced in the place for a year, then moved to Dakota.

#### GRAND MEADOW PHYSICIANS.

The first physician at this point was Dr. Samuel Jenks, who came in 1872. He was a native of the State of New York, and a graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago, of the class of 1872. He was a well educated successful physician. He remained till 1880, when he moved to Madison, Dakota.

The second physician was Dr. Wilder, who came in the fall of 1876, and was associated with Dr. Jenks, both in practice and in the drug business. He removed to Iowa City in 1878. He came from Wisconsin and was not a regular graduate in his profession.

Dr. O. A. Case, a graduate, came to Grand Meadow in 1877. He was a physician of fair ability. He removed from here in 1878.

Dr. Remington came in the winter of 1881 and left the following summer.

L. D. Jackson, M. D., located in Grand Meadow village in March, 1879. He was born in the town of Milton, Chittenden county, Vermont, January 31st, 1851, where he lived until May, 1873, when he came to Lime Springs, Iowa, where he was engaged in a drug store for two years. He then began the study of medicine with Dr. John W. Reed. He graduated at Rush Medical College, Chicago, in February, 1877, and located first at Dexter, Mower county, where he practiced for one and a half years and

then went to Grand Meadow, where he has since resided. He is the only one of his father's family that has settled in Minnesota. His parents still reside in Vermont. Mr. Jackson is married; his wife was formerly Miss Nellie Paddock. She is a native of Alabama. They have one daughter, Edith E., born in Grand Meadow in March, 1881. Dr. Jackson is a radical Republican.

#### ROSE CREEK PHYSICIANS.

Obadiah Wheelock, M. D., practicing physician at Rose Creek, was born in the town of New Haven, Oswego county, New York, July 20, 1828. When he was two years old, his parents removed to Oneida county. His education began in the district school, and was further advanced by three and a half terms in Whitestown Seminary. His first profession was that of teaching, which he pursued successfully, both before he went to the seminary at Whitestown, and afterward. In 1860, he began the study of medicine, as a pupil of Dr. J. M. Comings, of New York City. He attended clinics at Bellevue Hospital, and lectures at the Metropolitan Medical College, where he was graduated in 1863. He opened his first office at Port Leyden, Lewis county, N. Y. Remaining in that vicinity several years, he gained valuable experience in the art of healing. It was in 1872 that he came to Minnesota, and settled at Rose Creek, on the northeast quarter of section 35. The land had been in his possession some fourteen years, but was probably unimproved till after his arrival, when he proceeded to erect a dwelling, to set out trees and to cultivate the soil. Dr. Wheelock belongs to the eclectic school of medical practice. He was

married in 1856 to Celesta S. Seymour, who was born at Turin, Lewis county, New York, in December, 1827. They have six children, Robin S., Henry L., Emerson W., Alice S., Charles E., and Philip.

#### LANSING PHYSICIANS.

Dr. Josef Alloys was the first to practice medicine at Lansing. He pre-empted the southeast quarter of section one, in 1857 or '58. He was also a Catholic priest; was a short, thick set man, about sixty years of age. He attended to his medical and clerical duties, in connection with farming, until about 1860, when he went to Chicago. He is said to have had a good practice.

Dr. Ransseleer Soule came to Lansing in 1865, from Fairfield. He lived there until 1875, and then moved to Austin, where he died in 1880. He was a graduate of the Vermont University, at Burlington, and had practiced in Vermont and Canada, prior to his coming west. He purchased a large tract of land near Lansing, which he divided among his children. He did not come west with the view of practicing, but as circumstances seemed to demand his services, at times he practiced among his neighbors.

Dr. Lafayette, a Frenchman, came to Lansing, from Red Wing, in the fall of 1866, was of the eclectic school. He was a married man, about forty years of age, and quite successful in his practice. He went to Missouri, after remaining here about three years.

#### LE ROY PHYSICIANS.

Dr. Jones came here from Pennsylvania in 1855, and settled on the Joe Mason farm. When Dr. Alsdurff came, he quit practice, and in 1866 he went to Missouri, where he still lives, engaged in farming.

G. M. Alsdurff, eclectic physician and surgeon, of LeRoy, was born in Sparta, Crawford county, Pennsylvania, November 24, 1824, in which place he grew up and resided until nearly forty years of age. In the fall of 1864, he moved to Southern Minnesota, and settled in LeRoy, Mower county, in what is known as "old town." Happening to strike the place just in one of those terrible scourges, an epidemic of diptheria, he had business immediately, and went right into an extensive practice, in the counties of Mower, Fillmore, in Minnesota; and Howard and Mitchell, in Iowa. Coming into the country at that date of her history, when landmarks were unknown, highways and bridges were among the things that were not, the doctor has lived to see in the natural progress, that has been made in a new country, great advancement, great improvements in all the arts and developments of civilization. Twenty years has made giant strides in developing and utilizing the wild prairies of the great Northwest, which he has been on hand to witness by night and by day. As the name indicates, he is of German descent, and third generation from the fatherland. Dr. Alsdurff was the only physician who was permanently located at the old town of LeRoy.

When the new village was laid out, in 1867, Dr. Alsdurff opened an office, and the following year removed to that place, and has been in constant practice there ever since.

The next physician to locate here was a young man, Bingham, just from the Rush Medical College, Chicago, who was introduced by the Messrs. Coleman. He re-

mained here a short time, then went to Lanesboro, where he died of small-pox.

Dr. E. J. Kingsbury came from Decorah, Iowa, in 1869, and has gained a good practice. His success in the dreadful disease, diphtheria, has been very marked. He is a native of New York State, and was born in Franklin county, August 23, 1832. When he was four years old his parents moved to St. Lawrence county, where he grew to manhood. He first attended a district school at Potsdam, and later a select school at Raymondville, and he further advanced his education by six terms at Raymondville Academy under Professor Montague. At eighteen years of age he commenced the study of medicine at Raymondville with Heman A. Boland as preceptor and completed the same under the direction of Dr. Goodrich at Potsdam in the same county. In the winter of 1853 and 1854 he attended medical lectures at the American Medical Institute at Cincinnati, and graduated from that institution March 14, 1854. He located in Oswego county, New York, and remained there until the fall of 1855, when he came to Mower county. He pre-empted the southwest quarter of section 20, town 102, range 14, now known as the town of Bennington. He assisted in the organization of that town, and was the first chairman of the board of supervisors of the town. He remained a few years and then removed to Spring Valley in the fall of 1860, where he practiced for eight years, and then moved to Decorah, Iowa, where he remained until 1870, when he came to the town of LeRoy, where he has since practiced. He has been twice married. His first wife, to whom

he was married July 3d, 1853, was Lucia A. Angell. She was born in Pomfret, Vermont, April 8, 1829. She died at Spring Valley, Minn., September 28, 1867, leaving one child, named Flora A., having lost an only son about a year before. His second wife, to whom he was married October 21st, 1868, was Mary G. Hard. She was born in Broome county, New York, September 21, 1846. They have three children, Mattie J., Mildred A. and Elmer J. The doctor is a strong advocate of temperance and has been a member of some temperance organization since he was seventeen years old. He is a member of the bar of Minnesota. He was admitted to practice in all the courts in this State the 6th day of April, 1882, and he has served as police justice of the village of LeRoy for four years.

In the fall of 1868, Dr. Corbitt came from Michigan, and located at the new village. He was of the Allopath school, a graduate of the Bellevue Medical College, New York. He was a young man, but had had considerable practice in medicine. He remained here, off and on, until the time of his death, by consumption, in 1880. He was a well educated and informed man, and was a good physician.

Dr. C. W. Thrall came here from Wisconsin in 1876, and went into partnership with Dr. Kingsbury. A short time later his wife died, and he left. He was a well educated doctor—an Allopath—and a graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago. From here he went back to Wisconsin, and located at some point near LaCrosse, where he still lives, enjoying a lucrative practice.

In the spring of 1880, Dr. F. C. Davy

came here, and became a partner of Dr. Alsdurff. They were together about one year, when their partnership was dissolved. Dr. Davy went to Davenport, Iowa, where he became chemist in a glucose factory. Afterward he went to New York, and got the position of railroad surgeon. He is now chemist in a salt factory in the State of New York.

In the spring of 1881, Dr. Aldenkirk, a German, came here from Winneshiek county, and began practice. He was a Homœopathist, and got a fair office business. He remained here about two years, then went to Postville, Iowa, where he still lives.

In 1884, the representatives of the medi-

cal profession at LeRoy, were, Drs. G. M. Alsdurff and E. J. Kingsbury.

#### LYLE PHYSICIANS.

There have been numerous physicians at Lyle, but none remained for any length of time, due no doubt to the exceeding healthfulness of the climate!

The first to locate was Dr. A. Truane, who came in 1870. He was of the old school and a good physician. He moved from Lyle to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where he is still in practice.

Dr. Tanner, of the Homœopathic school, came in 1870, and made a short stay.

In 1881, M. C. Gordon, of Montreal, located at Lyle. He was of the old school practice, and only remained a short time.

## CHAPTER X.

### NATIONAL, STATE AND COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES.

The design of this chapter is to trace the history of county officers, from the organization of the county to the present time; and also to mention in brief the names of citizens of Mower county who have held State or National office. As far as possible sketches are given of these various officials. There has been much difficulty in securing the matter for this chapter, especially is this true of biographical sketches of those who have died or moved from this part of the State, since their official services were performed. When the reader

notices the omission of such sketches, of men, too, who perhaps in their day were men of some considerable prominence, it will be understood that the historian has been unable to obtain such matter.

While it is true we have had men in office at times, it must, nevertheless, be admitted that in our grand Republican form of Government, that the great body of men in official capacity are true *representative* men of the times and also of the locality in which they live, and are indeed men of force and

character. They are of the number who build up and strengthen a town, a county, a State, and likewise the nation which we are proud to call ourselves citizens of.

To a close observer of the records herein contained, it will be seen that great improvements have been brought about in all departments of civil government, since the early settlement of Mower county, as the manner of keeping the county records will attest. In the beginning the county official was not provided with the conveniences of office furniture and proper blanks upon which to make out the various reports and official documents; but each newly elected officer took his own method, without regard to those used by his predecessor. Vast changes have come with the passing years and decades, until to-day each office is furnished with "index books," by which, even the unskilled at clerical work, may readily turn to almost any record he may choose, where he finds it, as a rule, written in a plain, neat, uniform hand writing.

#### STATE REPRESENTATION.

The first Representative from Mower county was in the Legislature of 1856. At that time the county was connected with Houston and Fillmore, which comprised the Eighth Senatorial District. 1858 the county was changed from the Eighth to the Thirteenth District; and in 1860 this and Dodge county were made the Fourteenth District, and then given one Senator and two Representatives. In 1871 the representation of the State was enlarged and Mower county made an independent district, numbered Fourth, and entitled to one Senator and two Representatives. A review of the State rep-

resentation from Mower county shows the following list of State Senators:

E. W. Somers.....	1858
H. C. Rogers.....	1859-1860
John W. Fake.....	1861
J. H. Clark.....	1862-1863
D. B. Sprague.....	1864-1865
Samuel Lord.....	1866-1867
W. E. Harris.....	1868-1869
Samuel Lord.....	1870-1871
Sherman Page.....	1872
N. K. Noble.....	1873
E. H. Wells.....	1874-1875
R. I. Smith.....	1876
George W. Clough.....	1876-1878
W. H. Officer.....	1878-1881
W. L. Hollister.....	1882-1883
W. T. Wilkins.....	1883-1884

Henry C. Rogers was born in Danby, Rutland county, Vermont, August 8, 1835. Left an orphan when young, he found a home in the family of an uncle. Received his education in the common schools of that State. In 1854 he went to Massachusetts, where he made his home with his cousin Emerson J. Stimson. Came to Minnesota in 1856. Took a claim on section 24, town 104, range 18, and gave the name of Udolpho to the township. Came to Brownsdale in 1857, making his home again with the family of E. J. Stimson. He was elected to the State Senate in 1858, and to the House in 1861, besides holding minor town and county offices. In August, 1862, he enlisted as private in Company C, Ninth Minnesota Infantry. Was appointed captain; about one month later was transferred to the Eighth Minnesota Regiment as lieutenant-colonel. Was with Gen'l Sibley in the Indian expedition; on his return was stationed at Fort Ripley. Went South in 1864. Was severely wounded at the battle of Murfreesboro. Returned to Brownsdale

March, 1865. Was elected secretary of state November, 1865, and re-elected 1867; was appointed pension agent for Minnesota in 1870, which office he held at the time of his death, May 8, 1871. He died at the residence of E. J. Stimson.

The resting place of Col. Rogers is marked by a suitable monument, erected under the supervision of Henry Rogers Post, G. A. R., at Brownsdale, June 17, 1884, in whose history a full account is given.

Hon. William E. Harris was born in Chautauqua county, New York, August 4, 1832. He was a son of Joseph E. Harris. His wife was Kate Judd. She was born in Ontario county, New York, December 26, 1833. They were married October 20, 1858, and came to Minnesota in 1860, and bought 80 acres of land in section 26, in Racine township, where he lived four years. He afterwards added 80 acres to his farm. Mr. Harris represented Mower and Dodge counties in the State Senate in 1868 and 1869. He also represented the Third Commissioner district of Mower county from 1865 to 1868, and was census enumerator in the north half of the county in 1870, under the old system. He has served several terms as a justice of the peace. In 1865 he was appointed to fill a vacancy as town treasurer, to which office he was afterwards elected. In 1883-84 he was again elected town treasurer, which office he still holds. They have eight children: Harriet, wife of Frank J. Smith, of Spring Valley; Frank J., in trade at Spring Valley; Minnie, wife of R. E. Gould, of Bloomingdale, Illinois; Nellie, Jessie, George, Edwin, Freedom. Mr. Harris is a prominent man and has often been honored by town and county.

Nathan K. Noble came to Austin in 1870. He is now one of the city Justices of the Peace, having served in that capacity since 1878. Mr. Noble is a native of Oxford county, Maine, where he was born in 1816. He was reared and educated in his native State; commenced teaching at the age eighteen, and taught many years. He married Hannah B. Crockett, also a native of Oxford county. After marriage moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he taught school for ten years. Was Postmaster for eight years. Was also a member of the Massachusetts legislature for three successive years. He has served one year in the Senate of Minnesota. Mr. Noble is one of the leading members of the Universalist Church of Austin. Politically he is a Republican, and socially is highly esteemed for his upright, sterling qualities. Mr. and Mrs. Noble brought with them three children from their native New England. Their eldest, Ada A., is a teacher in the public school of Austin. Laura F. died here at the age of twenty. She was the wife of Frank McWhorter. Their son, James S., is in Minneapolis.

Elias H. Wells, was born in the township of Fairfax, Franklin county, Vermont, June 24, 1833, where he grew to manhood. He received his education in the common schools, and at the Academies at Bakersfield and St. Albans, in the aforesaid county. He taught school several winters before he was of age. Came west in the fall of 1853, and spent about fifteen months in the States of Illinois, Iowa, and the Territory of Minnesota, after which he returned home in the old green mountain state, and engaged in

the mercantile business at Fairfax village, continuing in that business the ten years in which he remained in Vermont, during several years of which time he was clerk and treasurer of the town. He was also Postmaster at that place for nearly four years, resigning the office when he again came west.

Mr. Wells was married September 14, 1859, to Charlotte E. Soule, daughter of Dr. R. Soule, then of North Fairfax, Vermont, but who accompanied Mr. Wells when he again came west. Mrs. Wells was born at North Fairfax, Vermont, November 12, 1839, where she resided until her marriage. They have three children, William L., Horace R., Susan C. The two boys were born in Vermont, the daughter in Minnesota. Mr. Wells came to Mower county in 1865, settling at the village of Lansing, remaining until he moved onto his farm in section 14, in December 1869, where he still resides. Mr. Wells is not only one of the large landholders of the township, but of the county, owning over a thousand acres of land, mostly devoted to stock raising. Among his other stock is a fine head of Shorthorn cattle, by the introduction of which he has been the means of improving the stock in his vicinity. He has also a flock of 500 valuable Merinos and grade sheep. Mr. Wells is an independent Republican, and strongly anti-monopolistic in politics. He was elected to represent his county in the State Senate in 1873, on a farmer's ticket, and served in the sessions of 1874-5. Not finding the political arena particularly attractive, and preferring the quiet of home, he has since declined to be a candidate for re-nomination.

William H. Officer, proprietor of the

Mower County Mills, located on the Cedar river, in section 27. This property was bought by Mr. Officer, in company with J. M. Rusk—the present Governor of Wisconsin—in 1869; Governor Rusk was associated with Mr. Officer in the proprietorship of the mill two years, since which time Mr. Officer has been sole proprietor. Mr. Officer was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, in 1822, where he grew to manhood. His father was—by trade—a cabinet maker, of whom he learned the trade, which he followed until 1856, when in June of that year Mr. Officer removed to the town of Jefferson, Vernon county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in surveying for two years, having made that study a specialty, while at school. He then leased the flouring mill at Springville, in Jefferson township, which he purchased, after running it a few years.

Mr. Officer is a staunch Republican, and served as a member of the Legislature of Wisconsin two years. Mr. Officer is also well known throughout Minnesota, he having served four years in the State Senate, from 1878 to 1882, of which body he was an active member.

Mr. Officer has been twice married, first to Mary A. Hannah, a native of Baltimore, Maryland. She died in Wisconsin, in 1866. His present wife was Matilda Ross, a native of Ohio. Mr. Officer has, by his first marriage, three children, viz: Sarah Jane, wife of T. Spencer, of Northwood, Iowa; Timothy C. E., William W..

Hon. W. L. Hollister, M. D., made his first settlement in Mower county at Lansing, in July, 1867, continuing in practice there four years. In 1871 he came to Austin,

where, except while serving in some official capacity, he has since been actively engaged in the arduous labors of his profession. Dr. Hollister was born in the town of Sharon, Schoharie county, New York, on the 9th of January, 1837. When he was but two years of age, his parents removed to Montgomery county. Sixteen years later, the family home was in Greene county. In 1858, he began the study of medicine with Dr. A. H. Knapp. He graduated at Albany Medical College in 1861, and began practicing at Stuyvesant, Greene county. At the end of two years, he removed to Kingston, where he stayed till 1867, when he came to Mower county as above stated. In the autumn of 1881, he was elected to represent the third district in the State Senate. In May, 1823, he received an appointment as Internal Revenue agent.

In this capacity he visited several different States. Before opening his office in Stuyvesant, Dr. Hollister secured a partner for life in Mary E. Beatty. The marriage day was January 9, 1862. The place of Mrs. Hollister's birth was Coxsackie, New York, its date the 27th of March, 1837. Dr. and Mrs. Hollister have been parents of three children, of whom but one is now living.

Lansing O., born January 3, 1865.

Clarence was born January 26, 1863, died January 13, 1878.

John F., was born October 22, 1870, died Nov. 13, 1882.

Hon. W. T. Wilkins is an early settler in Southern Minnesota, having settled in Spring Valley, Fillmore county, in 1854. He was elected Register of Deeds, of Fillmore county, in 1859, and removed to Preston, serving

in the capacity above mentioned, for a period of eight years, when he removed to Austin. Mr. Wilkins is the present State Senator from this District, having been elected in the fall of 1883. He is a native of Chautauqua county, New York, where he lived until his removal to Minnesota. Mrs. Wilkins was formerly Miss Aurelia E. Viall, also born in Chautauqua county. Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins lost their only child, Clara, at the age of sixteen years.

The first election for member of the Legislature occurred in 1855. The opposing candidates were W. B. Covell, Democrat, from the east side of the county, and A. B. Vaughan, Republican, from the west side. Ninety-seven votes were polled. Vaughan received a majority, and obtained certificate of election from the judges, but as elsewhere stated, found upon application to the House for admission that Covell had made returns of election to the Register of Deeds in Houston county, and been duly admitted.

The following shows Mower county's representation in the lower House of the Minnesota Legislature, from 1856 to 1884.

W. B. Covell.....	1856
J. M. Berry.....	1857
Samuel Lord	}.....1858
Allan Powers	
B. F. Langworthy.....	1860
Peter Mantor	}.....1861
T. J. Hunt	
S. Bostwick	}.....1862
H. C. Rogers	
D. B. Sprague	}.....1863
S. B. Bacon	
Royal Crone	}.....1864
August Barlow	
Royal Crane	}.....1865
C. D. Tuthill	
C. J. Felch	}.....1866
D. B. Johnson, Jr.	

C. J. Felch	}	.....	1867
D. B. Johnson, Jr.			
D. A. Shaw	}	.....	1868
C. K. Proper			
T. J. Hunt	}	.....	1869
C. K. Proper			
H. A. Brown	}	.....	1870
G. M. Cameron			
H. W. Page	}	.....	1871
W. G. Teller			
J. T. Williams	}	.....	1872
J. M. Wyckoff			
E. J. Stimson	}	.....	1873
Ole O. Finhert			
Gunder Halverson	}	.....	1874
A. E. Peck			
J. S. Irgens,	}	.....	1875
C. F. Greening			
H. F. Deming	}	.....	1876
C. F. Greening			
S. J. Sanborn	}	.....	1877
H. A. Brown			
S. J. Sanborn	}	.....	1878
H. K. Volstad			
J. D. Allen	}	.....	1879
J. F. Goodsell			
P. A. Peterson	}	.....	1880
J. D. Allen			
	}	.....	1881
John Frank	}	.....	1882
J. F. Carson			

Alansing B. Vaughan was born in Clinton county, New York, June 6, 1806. He received a good education. He made civil engineering his business until 1843, when he emigrated to Rock county, Wisconsin, where he followed surveying in connection with farming until 1849, when he engaged in mercantile business, which he followed until the summer of 1854, when he came with two sons to Mower county, Minnesota. He took a claim and hired a house built, returning to Wisconsin the same fall. The next spring he returned to Mower county with his family, which consisted of five sons and

two daughters. He brought his stock of goods with him from Wisconsin. Built the first store in Austin and engaged in the mercantile trade in company with his eldest son, P. D. Vaughan. They remained in Austin until 1856, when they sold the building and goods to a Mr. Brown. Mr. Vaughan was the first postmaster at Austin, keeping the office at his store. In 1855 he purchased a one-fourth interest in the townsite of Austin. In the fall he was elected a member of the Territorial Legislature. He was also a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention. He was the first judge of probate. He was a member of the Masonic society, being one of the charter members of the Austin Lodge of A. F. & A. M., and was also a member of the Chapter. He was one of the first justices of the peace, which office he was holding at the time of his death.

Mr. Vaughan was one of the incorporators and directors of the old Minnesota Central railroad, by the failure of which he lost heavily in bonds. He was prominently connected with the building up of Austin, and the organization of the county. He was also proprietor of the townsite of Lansing, from whom it derived its name. He died October 3, 1876. Mr. Vaughan was married in January, 1828, to Hepzibeth Bean. She was born in the town of Milton, Vermont, March 10, 1805. They reared a family of seven children. The mother died December 14, 1864. Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan were members of the Methodist church.

Hon. Charles J. Felch, was born in Catteraugus county, New York, January 1, 1818. His father, Benjamin Felch, was born in New Hampshire, and settled in Catteraugus

county, when a young man; he followed farming until he moved to what was afterwards Somers, Kenosha county, Wisconsin, in 1835, becoming in Wisconsin, what the son afterwards became in Minnesota, one of the early settlers. The father followed farming all of his active life, and to that avocation the subject of this sketch was reared, and in this has been a success, giving his attention to the improvement of all kinds of stock. Mr. Felch was married in Racine county, Wisconsin, in 1842, to Miss Mercy G. Barrows. She was born in Arcade, Wyoming county, New York, in 1821. Four children were born to them. David F. M. enlisted in the 9th Minnesota, and died in the hospital at Memphis, Tennessee, in 1864. Benjamin F., died from injuries received by being accidentally thrown from a horse. Their two youngest died in infancy. Mrs. Felch died in Wisconsin in 1850. Mr. Felch was again united in marriage January 1, 1852, to Hannah L. Sheldon. She was born in Steuben county, New York. Two children were born to this union, Charles H., deceased, and Ella H. Mr. Felch came to this county in the fall of 1855, and bought two pre-emption claims, one of Joseph Robb and the other of J. D. Gregory. These claims were made in 1854. Mr. Felch now owns the home farm of 380 acres of land all under improvement. He also owns in Martin county a stock farm of 560 acres, which is well supplied with stock.

Mr. Felch was the first Probate Judge of this county, and also represented the Senatorial district composed of Mower and Dodge counties in the House of Representatives of 1863 and 1867. He was also elected

county commissioner in 1870, and the succeeding term. Mr. Felch is a representative man, ever prominent in any enterprise, whose aim is the welfare of the best interests of the people.

Hosmer A. Brown was born in North Stonington, Connecticut, September 16, 1832. He is a son of Mathew and Lucy (Denison) Brown, natives of Connecticut. They lived on an old homestead, which had been held in the family since the first settlement of that country, which is now owned by a daughter. They lived on this farm until their deaths, the mother in 1849, the father in 1860. They raised a family of four children, three boys and one girl—Hosmer A. being the youngest. He received his education in the common schools, and learned the carpenter's trade. In the fall of 1851, Mr. Brown went by the way of "the Isthmus," to California, and engaged in mining two years, after which he received contracts for building government buildings at Fort Point, San Francisco. He followed this business until the spring of 1855, when he took passage on board the steamer "Golden Age," for home. When within 300 miles of Panama, and off the island of Kakerka, the vessel struck a reef, by which she stove a hole in her bow. The vessel was run ashore, but soon filled with water and sank on the beach. As Mr. Brown had had experience in making pumps and draining mines in California he was employed by the captain to assist in stopping the leak and getting the vessel afloat, which was accomplished on the ninth day, after which they set sail for the British dry docks on the island of Toboga. For his services Mr. Brown

received from the steamship company \$500 in the way of a donation. After remaining on the island thirty days, he crossed the Isthmus and came on the steamer "Illinois" to New York, from there to his home in Connecticut, where he spent the summer. In the fall, Mr. Brown started for Kansas. On reaching Fort Des Moines, Iowa, he heard so much of the troubles there that he changed his mind and came to Minnesota, arriving at Spring Valley, in Fillmore county, in December, where he wintered. In April, 1856, he, in company with his brother, Andrew D., who had come from Connecticut that spring, came to Red Rock township. Hosmer A. entered the northeast quarter of section 9, with a land warrant given his father for services in the war of 1812. He also bought of a Norwegian the southeast quarter of section 9. Mr. Brown and brother, together with John L. Johnson, are the original proprietors of the townsite of Brownsdale, where Mr. Brown and brother built one of the first saw mills in Mower county. Mr. Brown was married in St. Paul January 1, 1870, to Mary L. Frink. She was born at North Stonington, Connecticut. Her parents were Joseph and Lucy (Billings, Coals,) Frink, natives of Connecticut, the father being a soldier of the war of 1812. The mother died in 1866, aged 66. The father died in Illinois, while visiting his son-in-law, Dr. William A. Babcock, in 1871. Mrs. Brown received her education at the Suffield Literary Institute, at Suffield, Connecticut. In the fall of 1870 Mr. Brown was elected to the legislature, serving that term. The same year secured the location of the Southern Minnesota railroad at Brownsdale. In the

fall of 1877 Mr. Brown was again elected a member of the legislature, serving with credibility. He has also held local offices, and is among the large land holders of the county.

Hon. John T. Williams came to Mower county, in 1863, settling first on section 20, in the town of LeRoy. The following year he moved into the village of LeRoy, and soon after received the appointment of postmaster of that office. This position he held until the time of his death, performing its duties faithfully and well. Mr Williams was born in Wales, in 1839. His younger days were spent in school, where he received a course of training and instruction, which helped to fit him for his career of usefulness in after years. At seventeen he left his native land, crossed the Atlantic, and joined his brother in Rutland, Wisconsin. He here found employment, farming in the summer season, and advancing his education by attending school in the winter. Later, he engaged in teaching. He was united in marriage, in March, 1863, with Margaret A. Reed, a native of Rock county, Wisconsin, daughter of pioneers. Directly after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Williams came to Mower county, as before stated, and during the first winter taught school. He soon became prominent in town and county affairs, serving as County Commissioner and representing his district in the State legislature; he was an honest man and thoroughly respected. He sacrificed his own life in trying to save the life of another. He left a wife and three children. The names of the children are Merrill E., Arthur R., Alice M. Mrs. Williams was appointed to the charge

of the post office after her husband's death, and continues to manage its affairs with signal ability and success.

J. M. Wyckoff, an old settler of LeRoy, was born in the town of Chester, Morris county, New Jersey, October 7, 1827. Was the oldest of six children and fourth in descent from one Peter Clauson, one of the first settlers of Round Valley, New Jersey, who after careful research is believed to have been a descendent of, if not one of the original colonists who were the first to settle in West Jersey, and was the first to move away from the colony, by reason of which he was called "Wyckoff" (Wyckea off or went off) from the colony, from which circumstance the name (which his descendants now bear) originated. J. M. Wyckoff lived on a farm with his father, Henry H. Wyckoff, till the spring of 1852.

He was married in November 1851, to Miss Henrietta Honeymoon, daughter of James Honeymoon. Came from Morris county, New Jersey, in April 1856, to LeRoy, Mower county. He made a claim the 2d day of May following, of the north-east quarter of section thirty, and settled thereon. He entered this land at the Land Office at Chatfield, Minnesota. In 1859, he bought the southwest quarter of the north-west quarter of section 29, in same town, of George Peck. In 1861 he sold to Milton Sadler, and settled in the village of LeRoy. In October 1864, he bought out Rev. T. P. Ropes, on section 28, adjoining the village of LeRoy. In 1868 he moved to LeRoy station, near LeRoy village, where he now resides. In March 1868, at the earnest solicitation of F. M. Goodykoontz, the first

lawyer to settle in LeRoy, engaged with him in the law and real estate business, under the firm name of Goodykoontz & Wyckoff. In 1869, he purchased Goodykoontz's interest, and continues the business as successor to Goodykoontz & Wyckoff. He was admitted to the bar at Austin, Minnesota, September 21, 1870, before Hon. Judge Donaldson, district judge. He was elected town clerk seven, and justice of the peace five consecutive years, in the early part of the settlement. And although having to try a large majority of the important cases arising during his term of office, never had a decision appealed from; and although belonging to a minority party by about one to three, was chosen to the legislature of 1862, and for County Auditor for the term commencing March 1, 1879. He gave the land on the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 29, for a school house site, whereon the first school house in the county was built. He also made and put on one side of the roof of this house. It was in this building that the first debating society in the town met, and in which the first protracted meetings were held, and the first Methodist class was organized.

Mr. Wyckoff received the first school money from the county—forty dollars, and paid the same to a Miss Burknap, one of the early teachers in this house. He, together with Lewis Matthews, Esq., was instrumental in procuring the first Presbyterian preaching in the town by Rev. John Cracel, in 1862, from which has grown the present Presbyterian church.

Mr. Wyckoff is a man peculiarly fitted for a valuable member of society, one whom all may confide in with the most implicit confi-

dence, for his business dealings, whether in the capacity of an officer of township, county or State, or in charge of the most sacred places of trust in the various societies to which he belongs, he is the same systematic, thorough and exceptionally accurate man. All of the records made by him in Mower county in the several official capacities in which he has acted, one will find no mistakes as to firms, names, dates and detailed description. He is a pleasant conversationalist, being well informed upon the current topics of the day. Though he is a professional man, his chief delight seems to be in studying into the best methods of agriculture and horticulture. He is a close, cautious and practical thinker, and ever seeks to reduce all theory down to a practice which shall bring about the best results both to himself and his fellow men.

Hon. G. M. Cameron was elected to the State Legislature in the autumn of 1869. He is a native of Canada. Was born in Shefford county, Province of Quebec, in January, 1834. His youthful days, from early childhood, were divided between studying at school and working on his father's farm. Thus he prepared himself for college. In 1854 he came to Madison, Wisconsin, and entered the State University. There he pursued his studies till the fall of 1856. On the 27th of November in that year he arrived at Austin. In 1858 he was admitted to the bar at Austin to practice in the courts of Minnesota. He was elected Judge of Probate in 1860, was re-elected in 1876, and again in 1878. He has the honor of being the first mayor of Austin City. As Mr. Cameron has always been a Democrat, and Mower usually

a strong Republican county, the fact of his being repeatedly chosen to important offices testifies to his popularity as a man, the recognition of his worth as a citizen. The maiden name of Mrs. Cameron was Pamela Carter. She also was born in Shefford county, Province of Quebec. They were married in 1858. Three children brighten the home of the Camerons, viz.: William, Minnie and Kate.

Emerson J. Stimson was elected representative in the fall of 1872. He was born November 23, 1825, at Windsor, Vermont. He grew to manhood in that State, receiving a common school education and afterward entered Black River Academy, graduating in 1844. He was married in Rutland county, Vermont, in December, 1848, to Lydia A. Risdon. In the fall of 1853 they moved to Massachusetts and there kept a boarding house near Cape Ann. In the fall of 1856 Mr. Stimson started for Minnesota, leaving his wife and their one child at their home in Vermont. He arrived in Minnesota January 1, 1854, and at once claimed land on section 25, in Red Rock township. His wife followed in April, 1854. They resided on the farm until 1857, when they moved to Brownsdale and ran a hotel for three months, and then built a residence there, the lumber for which he hauled from Winona with ox teams. In politics he is a Republican, and has held county offices, including commissioner. He has also been postmaster at Brownsdale, and was internal revenue collector for a time. In 1884 he still lived at Brownsdale.

Hon. Gunder Halverson, a pioneer of Mower county, was born in Norway, Jan-

uary 12, 1828. His younger days were spent in school. He came to America in company with his parents, landing at New York in August, 1846. The family started west, stopping for a short time at Beloit, Wisconsin; from there they moved to Illinois, where they bought a farm and engaged in farming. The father lived here until his death.

The subject of this sketch made his home with his parents until 1852, when he went to California, making the trip across the plains with oxen, in company with a party of twenty-two; were five months in making the journey. Mr. Halverson engaged in mining there until 1854, when he returned, *via* the Panama route, to New York. In October of that year he came to Mower county, purchased a claim, after which he returned to Illinois, where he remained during the winter. Mr. Halverson was married there December 27, 1854, to Miss Jane Olson. She was born March 20, 1825. In the month of June they started with teams for their new home in Mower county. They, on their arrival, moved into a cabin which was on the place, covered with bark. Mr. Halverson broke ten acres the first year, and in the season of 1856 raised a crop of corn, wheat and potatoes, the latter of which he raised 200 bushels, and for what he had to spare sold readily for one dollar a bushel. He also had a market at home for corn and wheat. The nearest flouring mill was at Decorah, Iowa, sixty-five miles distant. Mr. Halverson has been a successful farmer. He now owns 275 acres, 150 of which is under cultivation. He has replaced the old log cabin by a substantial log house with a frame

addition. He has also built a good barn. Mr. Halverson is largely engaged in raising grain and stock. In 1873 Mr. Halverson was elected to represent Mower county in the State legislature. He has also held offices of trust in his township, being one of the first supervisors, which office he held several terms. Mr. and Mrs. Halverson are parents of five children—Ole, Aslak, Carrie, Emma, Gustave.

Hon. Albert E. Peck, was born in Otsego county, New York, July 10, 1834. He removed with his parents to the town of Kirtland, Lake county, Ohio, when he was but four years old, where he grew to manhood, being reared to agricultural pursuits. When he was twenty-one years of age he went to the town of Lafayette, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he was married in 1857, to Olive A. Huntington. She was born in the same town as her husband. She removed from the State of New York to Chicago, with her parents, in 1845. Her father died in 1848. In the spring of 1849, her mother with her family moved to Burlington, Racine county, Wisconsin, where Mr. and Mrs. Peck were married. Coming to Mower county in 1861, Mr. Peck settled on section 29, in the town of Pleasant Valley, where he resided until his death in 1876. He left a wife and six children, Celestia, Albert and Alfred, (twins) Frank E., George W., and Lawrence R. Mr. Peck was one of the representative men of Mower county. Politically he was a Democrat. He represented his district in the legislature in 1874, being elected on what was known as the People's ticket. He was chairman of Pleasant Valley township board a number of years, and held other offices of

trust. He was a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity ; in fact he won an enviable name as an upright, estimable citizen, and in consequence was placed in many positions of trust. Mrs. Peck's daughter—Mrs. George Smith—resides in Dakota. The sons are all unmarried. Mrs. Peck still owns the farm in Pleasant Valley, which, in connection with the farm she now occupies, makes nearly six hundred acres. Mrs. Peck was married in 1877, to J. L. Schroyer.

John S. Irgens is the son of Ole Irgens, who was paymaster at the Modum mines, Norway ; he was born at Modum, February 11, 1832. The family from which he descended are an old and very influential family, many of its members having held high positions in the Lutheran Church, and in political circles. The subject of this sketch was educated by private tutors, and was thoroughly fitted for business life. He speaks four languages. He came to this country in 1848, and was clerk for two years in a mercantile house in New York, then came to Chicago, clerking there a while, after which he went into trade for himself. In 1857, he removed to St. Ansgar, Iowa, and engaged in trade for a short time. The same year he moved to Adams township, Mower county, Minnesota. Was station agent at that point for about three years. He also engaged in agricultural pursuits, which has been his leading business ever since.

He resigned his station agency to accept the office of County Treasurer of Mower county, which office he held four years. February 1, 1862, Mr. Irgens enlisted as a private in the 15th Wisconsin Infantry, and

was promoted to Second Lieutenant the following June. At the close of one year in the army, he had nearly lost his hearing. He resigned, and returned to Minnesota. He was a member of the lower House of the State Legislature in 1875. In November of that year he was elected Secretary of State, and was re-elected in 1877, having a majority of more than 18,000 votes over his competitor. That office, it is generally conceded, was never filled by a better officer. He evidently believes in undertaking nothing which he can not do well. In politics he has acted uniformly with the Republican party. Mr. Irgens has long been a member of the Lutheran Church, and has held at different times the offices of trustee, treasurer, etc. Mr. Irgens, wife was Miss Louise P. Arentz, of St. Ansgar, Norway, their union taking place in Chicago, December 18, 1853. They have been blessed with seven children, two of whom are dead. Ole Henry, the eldest son, has a family, and lives at Valley City, Dakota Territory. Henrietta Maria, is the wife of Frank Jerabeck, of Ellendale, Dakota Territory. In 1884, the rest of the children were unmarried.

In 1878, Mr. Irgens moved from Minnesota to Dakota, where he took a homestead, living there for three years, after which he removed to Claremount, Virginia, where he still resides, and follows farming.

Henry F. Deming was elected Representative on the Republican ticket in the fall of 1875. He was born in Jefferson county, N. Y., December 25, 1825. His father was a Presbyterian minister, who preached at many prominent places within the State. He died in Franklin Co., N. Y. The subject of this

sketch made his home with his parents until he was fourteen years of age, when he commenced working out on a farm, and by that earned his own living. When he was 28 years old—1853, he married Mary Bennett, a native of Franklin county, N. Y. Soon after their marriage they moved to Lowell, Massachusetts, where they lived three years, and then removed to Green county, Wisconsin. In 1863 they came to Mower county, and took a homestead on the west half of the northwest quarter of section 6. He improved this land and erected a set of good frame buildings, and remained there until 1884, when he sold and moved to Lansing township, near the city of Austin. He has always been an active man and has been held in the highest esteem by the communities in which he has lived. He is a staunch Republican, and has held the office of supervisor and chairman of the board in Nevada township, where his farm was situated.

Mr. and Mrs. Deming have four children—Charles F., Jesse S., Eva J., Bertha Gay.

Hon. Stephen J. Sanborn was born in Stousted county, Canada, February 12, 1837. His father, Stephen Sanborn, was born in the same province in 1811. His ancestors were natives of New Hampshire. Stephen Sanborn, in the spring of 1844, settled with his family on Rolling Prairie, Dodge county, Wisconsin. His family consisted of himself, wife and three boys, viz.: Artemas W., born in 1844, who is now a resident of Rochester, Minnesota, and is engaged in the railroad postal service. He owns a farm in this town. The next in order of birth is Stephen J., the subject of this sketch, and David C., also a resident farmer, who was born in 1844.

After coming to Wisconsin another son was added to the number named, Elias B. He gave his life to his country and died in the hospital at Chattanooga, July 3, 1865. The father came to this town in 1861, with his wife and two youngest boys. He bought 160 acres of land in section twenty-six. He died July 22, 1870. He was a sterling man and enjoyed in a large degree the respect of his towns people. The widow, Mrs. Rhoda Sanborn, and mother of Hon. S. J. Sanborn, resides with her son, David. The subject of our sketch possessed a roving disposition and to gratify this taste he in 1859, when twenty-two years of age, started out to seek his fortune and see the world. He went to California and worked in the mines. The spring of 1860 found him with the crowd at the Warhoe diggings in Nevada, where most of the time for two years he courted the fleeting goddess, "Fortune," who was always a little beyond his reach. In 1862 he went to Idaho, where he followed in the trail of the same fickle dame for three years. In 1865 he changed his location and one bright morning he opened his eyes upon the beauties of Montana, where he bought a claim which he worked for a few weeks, when he made another move to Fort Benton, from there to Omaha, the trip being accomplished on board of a flat boat down the Missouri river.

Upon leaving Omaha he decided to visit his parents, who with his brothers were settled in the town of Racine, in this county. He soon after bought 86 acres of land in section 35, to which he has added and now owns 220 acres. He was married November 18, 1869, to Miss Theresa R. Stewart,

daughter of Deacon Jonathan and Laura Stewart, who are old settlers of this town. Mr. and Mrs. Sanborn have had four children born to them—only two living. Lola, born August 25, 1870; died December 12, 1880. Elias D., born November 2, 1873. Libbie, born February 8, 1875; died December 9, 1880, and Pirna, born January 24, 1882. Mr. Sanborn is one of the prominent men of the town and county. He was elected to the Legislature in 1877, and re-elected in 1878, which goes far to show the high esteem and respect of his fellow man for him.

Hon. Holver K. Volstad, one of the pioneers of Mower county, was born in Norway, October 21, 1826. He was reared to agricultural pursuits, attending school until fifteen years of age. When twenty-seven years of age he left his native country and came to America; landed at Quebec; came direct to Chicago, where he remained three weeks, after which he went to Winnebago county, Illinois, where he found employment at ten dollars per month on a farm. Mr. Volstad was married to Isabelle Stabuck. She was also born in Norway. They remained in Illinois till 1856, when they came to Mower county, bringing two pair of oxen and a wagon with their household goods, camping out on the way. After twenty-one days travel they arrived in Mower county. Mr. Volstad having been here the summer previous and bought a claim—the east one-half of the southeast quarter, and the west one-half of the southwest quarter, of section 30. On his arrival with the family they moved into the log house he had fixed up for a residence. He did not have money to

enter the land when he came, therefore, did not prove up on his claim for four or five years. The land at the time of his coming was mostly covered with grubs. He has cleared 60 acres, erected a good house, and a large frame barn. He raised the first wheat in 1860, but had no more than he wanted for home use. In 1861 he raised wheat to sell, which he marketed at McGregor, a distance of 125 miles, selling it for fifty cents a bushel. Now there is a depot, one and a half miles distant. Mr. and Mrs. Volstad have five children—Knut, Mary, Charlie, Julia, Henry. Mr. Volstad has been a member of the board of supervisors; also represented his district in the legislature the fall of 1878. Mr. Volstad, in addition to his farm here, owns 274 acres in Iowa.

Hon. J. D. Allen twice represented Mower county in the legislature. His first election was in the fall of 1878, and his re-election in 1880 was a strong endorsement of his course. He is a native of New York State, born in the town and county of Clinton, November 24, 1841. When he was but a few months old his parents moved to Canada, where they remained until 1852, when they came to Waukesha county, Wisconsin, where they lived two years, after which they removed to Stoughton, Dane county, where he grew to manhood, receiving his education at the district school. When a young man he learned telegraphy, and in 1861 went to Mazominee, Dane county, where he took charge of the telegraph office, remaining until 1863, when he entered the employ of the government as bookkeeper. He joined the army at Grand Gulf and was bookkeeper for Captain Jones, (he being quarter-master.)

and remained until after the fall of Vicksburg, when he was appointed assistant chief clerk to Captain Eddy. He remained with him until the spring of 1865, where he went to Chicago, where he was employed as book-keeper in a commission house, remaining there until August, 1867, when he came to LeRoy, and in company with D. C. Corbitt, was the pioneer hardware merchant, which business he still follows. Mr. Allen has been very successful in business. He has erected a handsome brick building, in which he conducts his business. He was married in the fall of 1866 to Miss Josie Corbitt, also a native of New York state. They have five children—Josie D., Wilbur F., Willie H., George E., Kate.

Peter A. Peterson, a native of Norway, was born November 20, 1837. In 1845 his parents emigrated to Rock county, Wisconsin, where the father died in 1876, age 62 years. His mother is still living in Rock county. His parents raised a family of eight children, Peter A., of whom we write, being the oldest. He grew to manhood on the farm, which business he has since followed. He received a common school education, both in his own and the English language. He was married in Rock county, Wisconsin, in January, 1864, to Caroline Easton. She was born in Norway in 1839. In the spring of 1864 Mr. Peterson and wife came to Mower county and settled on section 7 in Udolpho township, where he has since lived. In politics he is a staunch Republican, and in 1881 represented his county in the Legislature. He has also been a member of the township board, besides holding other offices of trust. Mr. Peterson is an active

member of the Evangelical Lutheran church in his township. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have had eight children—Andrew O., Sam M., Carl O. (deceased,) Mariah S., Clara E., Henry A. and Osin O. (twins,) and James L.

Hon. John Frank. It devolves upon the historian now to treat of one who is spoken of by his acquaintances in terms so eulogistic that the penman who should closely follow would do so at his peril. Without the name of John Frank, farmer, the records of Mower county would indeed be grievously incomplete. It is evident that he is one who is most esteemed, his friendship highest prized by those who know him best. No one in these parts, it is averred, has done more than he to develop the natural wealth-producing resources of the country, and by force of example encourage his fellowmen to lives of honor and thrift. In short, it has been declared that he is one of those rare men to whom it is scarcely possible to award too much praise. The leading incidents of his career to present date are here given in brief:

John Frank, the youngest in a family of seven children was born on the 13th of February, 1834, in the village of Erligheim, Kingdom of Wuerttemberg, Germany. His mother died when he was about twelve; his father three years later. In the schools of his native town he received mental discipline and acquired a store of useful knowledge. At twenty he resolved to seek his fortune in America, landing in New York City, as so many of his countrymen coming before and since have done, on the 4th day of June, 1854. He there remained till the spring of 1855, when he was drawn toward the great

west, leaving New York on the 10th of April, his objective point being Rockford, Illinois. He proceeded on his journey till he reached the city of Cleveland, Ohio, where he spent a few days visiting former acquaintances and friends. The story is quaintly told that he had the good fortune here to discover a treasure more precious than rubies. From Cleveland he came to Chicago, whence after a brief tarry he continued on to the beautiful city of Rockford, arriving there early in May. For some months he pursued a course of inquiry and investigation, which convinced him that the advantages offered by the newly opened, thinly populated Territories of the northwest for earning an independent livelihood, and for acquiring a home and a competence, were greatly superior to those of the larger settled eastern portions of the country. Traveling from Rockford in a nearly west north-west direction, on the 15th of October he reached the house of Henry Edmonds in the southwest corner of Fillmore county, Minnesota, this region appearing to him one of the most delightful spots on earth, he determined that here should be his permanent home. Accordingly, he made a pre-emption claim of one hundred and sixty acres of government land in the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 30, town 101, Mower county. A log cabin was constructed the same season, and Mr. John Frank began housekeeping all by himself. Finding by experience that it was not pleasant for a man to live alone, feeling that something was needed to complete his preparations for the new life on which he was entering, he resolved to look after the "treasure" he had found in Cleveland some seven or eight

months before. In other words, he now sought to cultivate the acquaintance of a charming young lady whom he had met in that city. It may be here mentioned concerning this young lady, Catherine E. Lachele, that she was born in Geislingen, Wuerttemberg, on the 30th of October, 1833. That early in 1854 she, in company with her sister, left a wealthy father's luxurious home, then presided over a stepmother, crossed the Atlantic and came to live in the Forest City of Ohio. To return now to the lone dweller in the new log house. His overtures of friendliness were affably received; a very interesting and serious correspondence was carried on during the winter of 1855-6, with the result of a meeting on the 1st of July, 1856, and on the 9th of that month, at Rockford, Illinois, the marriage of Catherine E. Lachele and John Frank. Their wedding journey was the trip to the Minnesota home. The prize was won. The persistent pioneer had secured a worthy helpmate. To use his own enthusiastic expression after more than a quarter of a century of wedded life, a brighter, truer, nobler woman never crossed the ocean. Mrs. Frank has shown herself possessed of great mental powers, a person of clear and quick decision and remarkable energy, with no other capital than strong and willing hands, active brains, and hearts warm with mutual affection, the youthful pair started in life together, accepting to begin with the task of bringing under cultivation the wilderness around them. The success they have obtained shows what can be accomplished by untiring industry, wise economy and honest dealing. Their farm of fourteen hundred acres is one of the finest and best managed

and improved in the land. It is well stocked with cattle, horses, sheep, hogs and many varieties of poultry, and furnished with the most improved farming implements of all kinds. One hundred cows furnish milk to the first limberger cheese factory in the State, the factory standing close by the premises and successfully operated by Mr. G. B——, from New York. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Frank has been blessed with three children. The eldest, Louise, was born on the 14th of June, 1857; the second, William, was born on the 9th of May, 1866; the third, Irene, was born on the 28th of June, 1875.

Mr. Frank has been very liberal in his expenditures for the education of his children. Louise finished her schooling at St. Mary's Hall, Faribault. William was sent to Shattuck School, at Faribault. His health having been impaired by over study, he was taken home at the end of two years. After staying on the farm about a year, with regained health and strength he went to New York City, and entered the employ of Goodbe & Co., bankers and brokers, in Wall street, with the view of obtaining a thorough business training. His health again failing, he was compelled to his own regret, and that of his employees, to give up his desirable situation, and return to Minnesota. He now occupies a responsible position in the Bank of Glencoe.

In the autumn of 1861, Mr. Frank responded to his country's call and enlisted in Co. K. 4th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, serving faithfully through the war. The hardships then endured left him much broken physically, so that he has been unable of late years to perform any manual labor on the farm.

Elected to the State Legislature in the autumn of 1882, he carried into that new field his accustomed energy, and gained the reputation of being the hardest worker, and one of the most respected and most influential members during the session of 1883.

Mr. Frank is a man of open, cheerful, amicable disposition, strictly honorable in business transactions. He has broad and enlightened views on the subject of human progress, in which he is a consistent believer, ever ready to give a clear word of counsel or to render material aid for the promotion of individual welfare or the public good. He, too, should be written "as one who loves his fellow men."

Hon. James F. Carson was born at Mount Vernon, Kennebec county, Maine, October 25th 1843. When he was seventeen years of age he started out for himself with high hopes of the future, and a capital of seventy-five cents. His father and mother are still living on the old homestead in Maine. James, on leaving home, went to Massachusetts, where he found employment in a hotel. He enlisted in December 1863, in Company H. 4th Massachusetts Cavalry, and served until November 1865. He returned to Maine in 1868. August 7, 1869, he was joined in marriage to Miss Amanda S. Goodwin. She was born in 1838. They lived at Mount Vernon until 1870, when they came to the town of Racine, with his Uncle Noah G. Carson, who owned 160 acres of land in section 20. Mr. and Mrs Carson made their home on this place with his uncle. Mr. Noah Carson died in 1871, giving the farm to his nephew, to which Mr. Carson has since added 140 acres. Mr. Carson has one

of the finest farms in this part of Mower county, all under cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Carson had five children. Two only are living, Osborn J., Leona A. Mr. Carson was elected to the Legislature in 1882. He is a representative man, ever prominent in any enterprise, whose aim is the welfare of the best interests of the people, and has always maintained a deep regard for all that pertains to individual advancement, and is now reaping the harvest of honor and respect, sown by him in his early youth and manhood.

#### COUNTY OFFICERS.

The history of Mower county would be incomplete without a record of its county officers, who have served since its organization. There has been much difficulty in obtaining material for biographical sketches of those who have died or moved away from the county, so if any omissions occur it will not be charged to the part of neglect or fault of the historian as due care has been taken to collect such matter.

#### PROBATE JUDGE.

The county commissioners, George White, Phillip Howell, and William Russell, who were appointed to that office, by Governor Gorman in March, 1856, met April 7 of that year, in the village of Frankford, where they appointed the first county officials, among which number was C. J. Felch as probate judge, who served in this capacity until January 1, 1857, when the first probate judge, who was elected by the people, took the bench. Among others who have held this office is Charles F. Hardy. He was a native of Waltham, Massachusetts. He came from

Ohio to Mower county, and took a claim in section 9, Red Rock township, in the spring of 1856. He was a man of superior education and ability. He was a Republican and held the office of county commissioner, judge of probate, and was justice of the peace for many years. During the late war he had supervision of supplying the township quota of soldiers. He died in August, 1870. His wife and one daughter are still living in the town.

William H. Crandall was made Judge of Probate through an appointment made by Gov. Davis, after the resignation of Judge Rose. Mr. Crandall was a native of Florence, Erie county, Ohio, born March 1, 1848. He was married to Alma L. Searles July 4, 1871. He lived in his native state until 1871, when he came to Minnesota. Most of his life has been spent in the practice of the legal profession. He was assistant secretary in the State Senate in 1877.

Judge Ormanzo Allen, the present Probate Judge of Mower county, is by profession an attorney and counselor at law, and has been a resident of Austin since the summer of 1856. He was born at Alfred, Alleghany county, New York, in 1830. His parents, Abram and Dorcas Allen, were natives of the State of Rhode Island, but residents of Alleghany county from early youth, where they were married. In 1842, Judge Allen removed with his parents to Rock county, Wisconsin, and settled near Janesville. In 1849, he returned to his native county, and entered Alfred University, where he graduated in 1851. He then entered Union College, New York, where he graduated in 1854, after which he became principal of an academy at Plain-

field, New Jersey, where he continued one year, when he returned to Rock county, Wisconsin, and soon after entered, as a student, the law office of Bennett & Sloan, at Janesville, being admitted to the bar in 1856, and came here in July of that year,—soon after his admission, being the first practicing attorney of Austin. In the spring of 1860, he was elected chairman of the board of County Commissioners, of Mower county, and in the fall of the same year was elected County Auditor, and served in that capacity until the spring of 1865, when he resigned the office to take the position of provost marshal of the first district of Minnesota, to which he had been appointed. In June of the same year, he was appointed Probate Judge to complete an unexpired term, and was twice thereafter elected to the same position; he was then engaged in the practice of law until 1880, when he was again made Probate Judge, which (in 1884) he still holds. His wife was Eliza A. Alexander, daughter of John H. and Permelia Alexander. She was born in Steuben county, New York. They have no children. Judge Allen is a man of fine literary attainments and an able lawyer. He is highly esteemed for his social qualities and public spirit. In 1875, accompanied by his wife, Judge Allen visited California, returning the following year. They again visited that State in 1876, returning to Austin, after remaining nearly a year.

#### COUNTY AUDITORS.

The office of County Auditor was created to take effect in 1859. The business now performed by him, prior to that date had been accomplished by the Register of Deeds and Clerk.

The first Auditor was John P. Williams, who was elected in the fall of 1870, served that term and was re-elected by a large majority. Mr. Williams was born in Essex county, New York, June 15, 1834. He was married, July 4, 1863 to Irene Dutton. He lived in his native State until 1860, when he came to Mower county, where he remained till 1883. He followed farming as a vocation. At the time of his election to Auditor, he was acting as County Commissioner, and resigned to take the office of Auditor. In religious belief he was a Methodist. In 1884 he was a fruit grower, at Los Angeles, California.

Henry H. Shook, one of the early settlers of 1856, was born March 19th, 1830, in Versailles, Ripley county, Indiana, where he grew to manhood, and received a common school education. He attended the Ripley county seminary three years. The summer of 1852 he crossed the plains to California and engaged in mining, remaining until 1854, when he returned to Indiana and engaged in the hardware trade at Versailles. In June, 1856, he came to Red Rock township and pre-empted the farm on which he now resides. In 1858, Mr. Shook engaged in general mercantile business at Brownsdale, which he followed for two years. In 1866, he went to Montana, remaining one year. Mr. Shook was engaged in buying wheat at Brownsdale and other points on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad. He has also been engaged in farming, which business he still follows at Brownsdale. Mr. Shook was married January 20th, 1858, to Emily L. Partloe. She was born at North Stonington, Connecticut, May 14th, 1837. They had

six children, three of whom are living, viz: Edgar D., Dora L., Charles H. Mrs. Shook died May 13th, 1870. Mr. Shook was again married January 24th, 1881, to Eliza Pilling, who was born in Bradford, England, February, 1854. They have one child, Ray S. Mr. Shook is a Democrat, and has been chairmen of township board of supervisors, and is a member of the board of village councilman, of which board he has been president; he has also been township clerk. Mr. Shook received the appointment of County Auditor, to fill vacancy, caused by the resignation of H. M. Allen, for which office he was a candidate, receiving a certificate of election, but his election being contested, the office was given to his opponent. Mr. Shook was also a candidate for representative, but was defeated by the Republican candidate.

H. W. Elms has served as auditor of Mower county since March, 1881, having been deputy auditor for the four preceding years. He is a native of St. Lawrence county, New York, where he was born in 1846. Mr. Elms served in the 142d regiment, New York Volunteers for one and a half years, and was then transferred to the 169th regiment, where he served until August, 1865, coming to Mower county the same year.

#### COUNTY TREASURER.

Lewis Patchen was the first treasurer of the county, having received his appointment from Governor Gorman. He served until January 1, 1857, when the first elected treasurer, S. C. Bacon, took the office, holding the same during the years 1857-58. Mr. Bacon was born in New Hampshire, Feb-

ruary 6, 1825. He and his family came to Le Roy, Mower county, in the month of November, 1854, and built him a log cabin. Palmer H. Stevens and family came on at the same time and built a log house near him, both being on the east bank of the Little Iowa river. These two pioneer gentlemen commenced the work of constructing a dam and saw mill, both of which were completed the following spring, 1855. Henry Edmunds, who settled in the southeast part of Fillmore county, was also a part owner in the mill property, and he afterward bought Mr. Bacon's interest in the mill. The only families living in that vicinity in 1855 were Fayette Lincoln, Britts, Van Houton, Niles P. Squires and the Allen families. Daniel Squires moved in soon after. At that early day much amusement was afforded at the expense of the wild deer and elk, which were not uncommon to be seen galloping over the broad prairies. In one instance, it is related by Mr. Britts, who was a near neighbor to Mr. Bacon, that he counted 400 at one time. Mr. Bacon was a member of the Legislature at one time, also a justice of the peace in LeRoy township, county commissioner and chairman of the board of supervisors for three years. At the present time (1884) he lives in Woodson county, Kansas.

Rev. T. J. Lake was elected in the fall of 1859. He was treasurer first by appointment, and then by election.

Mr. Lake was a native of Green county, New York, born in 1824. He was eighteen years of age when he moved to Wellsborough, Tioga county, Pa., where he assisted a teacher in the instruction of a preparatory class for college. In 1856, he removed to Minnesota,

and took up a claim one and a half miles from Hamilton, where he built a house and opened up a farm. Soon after this Hamilton was fixed upon as the point at which to locate "The Bronson Institute," in which he was employed as teacher. While thus engaged he was elected to the office of county treasurer of Mower county. He was married to Martha R. Evans September 5, 1849. Mr. Lake was a resident of Minnesota twenty years, leaving for Alabama in 1876, where he was still living in 1884. He was a member of Co. C., 9th Regiment of Minnesota Volunteers. That company was in the Indian campaign. He was at Wood Lake and Camp Release at the surrender of the 2,200 Indians, of which 38 were hung at Mankato in 1863, for being leaders of that terrible massacre at New Ulm.

In religious faith Mr. Lake is a Methodist, also a local preacher. He was ordained by Bishop Kavanaugh, after he went south to live. He delivered the first real temperance address in Mower county, at Austin, in what was called the "headquarters." Among the prominent places at which he has preached are: LaCrosse, North LaCrosse, Rushford, Preston, Spring Valley, Austin, Albert Lea, Wells, Winnebago City, Brownsdale, Owatonna, and Faribault.

He was the first Alternate chosen from the State at large, by the Republican State Convention, at Montgomery, Alabama, to the Chicago Convention, in 1884. He was appointed Postmaster of Athens, Alabama, in 1881, and was still in office in 1884.

He was an efficient county officer, and also an enterprising citizen of Mower county for many years, and when leaving the State

left a wide circle of friends and admirers, the memory of whom is pleasant to recollect.

Ferdinand A. Elder was also elected Treasurer. He was born November 22, 1842, at New Portland, Maine. He came to Mower county in 1858. He has been engaged in farming, law and real estate business, and is now (1884) practicing law at Moorehead, Dakota, as a member of the firm of Briggs & Elder. He married Carrie E. Emerson, April 28, 1875. During the rebellion he served as a faithful soldier in Co. "E," 7th Minnesota Volunteers. Mr. Elder has been a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal church for many years. Most of his life has been spent in Maine, Illinois and Minnesota.

Sylvester Smith, one of the well known and much respected pioneers of Austin, was born at Batavia, the county seat of Genesee county, New York. When four years of age, his parents emigrated to Canada, and settled in what was then known as the Gore District, now included in Brandt county, where the subject of our sketch grew to manhood. When a young man he learned the trade of plaster mason. He was joined in marriage, January 6th, 1848 to Eunice Roseburgh. She was born in Brandt county, December 18th, 1830. This union was blessed with one child, Fay R., who is now connected with the Mower county Bank. They remained in Canada until 1855, then removed to Minnesota, and settled in Austin, where he made his home until the time of his death. He was appointed the first Justice of the Peace in Mower county, was elected County Treasurer in 1862, and held that office eight years. He was connected with

various public enterprises, was thoroughly honest, and much respected by all who knew him. His widow survives him and still resides in Austin.

G. L. Case, County Treasurer of Mower county, has served in his present capacity since October 7th, 1881, having been at that time appointed to fill the vacancy, caused by the death of his predecessor, P. T. McIntyre, and was elected to the office the following November, and was re-elected in 1883. Mr. Case was born in Chittenden county, Vermont, in 1838. He removed to Franklin county, New York, with his parents, about 1850. In 1856, the family removed to Olmsted county, Minnesota; his father, Lyman Case, located with his family on a farm not far from the village of Chatfield, in Fillmore county, where he resided until his death. Mr. Case enlisted as a private in 1862, in Company D, 8th Minnesota, Volunteer Infantry, serving until November, 1864, when he was promoted to Lieutenant and later promoted to Captain, and served as such until he was discharged, February 22nd, 1866. After the war he went to Ottawa, Kansas, where he was engaged in the hardware business for three years, when he returned to Chatfield, where he was engaged in the same branch of business for some time; coming from that village to Mower county, and engaged in farming, in the town of Red Rock, where he still owns a farm. Mr. Case is universally regarded as a faithful, obliging and competent official. His wife was Miss Emma Woodsum, daughter of Brockett Woodsum, now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Case have four children; Brockett, Lucinda P., Roy G., Milo A.

## COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

Eber O. Wheeler was elected to the office of County Attorney in the fall of 1867 and served one term. He was born April 12, 1839, in Wayne county, New York. He was married in August in 1839 to Miss Kate J. Fleck, and again December 18, 1877, to Minerva Moore. He resided in the State of New York until 1865, and from that time to 1880 in Mower county, Minnesota. He has always followed the legal profession for a livelihood.

John M. Greenman, attorney and counselor at law, and present county attorney of Mower county, has been a resident of Austin since January 10, 1871. He is a native of the empire State, born at Homellsville, Steuben county, New York, in 1837. He entered Alfred Academy, as a student in 1848, where he graduated in 1853, at the age of sixteen years. In the fall of the same year, he removed with his father, Henry G. Greenman, to Wisconsin. His father settled at Milton, Rock county, where he lived until his death in 1863. His mother still lives at the homestead in Wisconsin. Mr. Greenman began the study of law in 1855. In 1856 he came to Minnesota, and located near St. Charles, Winona county. In 1861 he returned to Wisconsin, and in 1863 was admitted to the bar at Janesville, Judge Lyon presiding. He soon after opened an office at Milton Junction, where he was engaged in practice until he came here in 1871. During the first year of his residence in Austin he was associated with I. N. Hawkins—since that time he has been alone in practice. In 1872 he was elected City Attorney on the Democratic ticket. He was again elected

to that office in the spring of 1882, and in the fall of the same year was elected County Attorney. Mr. Greenwood is one of the prominent attorneys of Mower county. Is also one of the working members of the Methodist Episcopal church of this city. His wife was Elizabeth Sturdevant, a native of Pennsylvania. They have two sons—Henry, Fay.

#### REGISTER OF DEEDS.

Timothy M. Chapman was appointed Register of Deeds in the spring of 1856. Mr. Chapman was born near Kingston, Canada, on the 18th of April, 1829. He was married April 26, 1857, to Miss Laura A. Root. He lived several years in Kane county, Illinois, coming to Mower county in the autumn of 1854. The following spring he took up his place of residence at Frankford, boarding with Lewis Patchen. He was agent for Francis Teabout, proprietor of that townsite. He there received the appointment of postmaster, holding that office till he removed from the county, in 1857. He named his successor in office, D. D. Frazier. He was notary public and has been in the mercantile business; also general agent for the C. H. McCormick Reaper and Mower Company. Has been Justice of the Peace six years in Fillmore county, where he still lives. He was Deputy County Treasurer of that county for four years. It may also be added, he sold goods at Frankford in 1855, 1856-57.

The first Register of Deeds elected in Mower county was R. L. Kimball, in the fall of 1856, taking charge of the office January 1, 1857. Mr. Kimball was a native of Bristol, New Hampshire, born at that place

February 19, 1829. In January, 1853, he was married to Imogene A. Adams.

William M. Howe has been a resident of Mower county since December, 1866. He was born in Canton, St. Lawrence county, New York, in 1835. He attended school more or less of the time until seventeen years of age, when he entered the office of the county clerk of St. Lawrence county, where he was employed the most of the time for eight years, when failing health compelled him to retire. As many others have done, Mr. Howe came to Minnesota, hoping to be benefited by the pure air and bracing climate for which our State is noted. Nor has he been disappointed in his expectations. Believing that his object would be best attained by a residence in the country, he located in the town of Lansing and engaged in farming about seven years. In 1874 he was elected to the office of Register of Deeds of Mower county, a position to which, by education, he was well adapted. He held this office six successive years, discharging its duties in a thorough and acceptable manner. During his long term he found time and opportunity to prepare a complete set of abstract books, perhaps the most complete to be found in Minnesota. Since his retirement from office he has been engaged in the abstract, loan and real estate business. Mrs. Howe, formerly Miss Susan J. Soule, was born in Vermont, and is a daughter of Dr. Renselaer Soule, who emigrated from Vermont and settled at Lansing in 1865, and lived there until 1875, when he removed to Austin, where he died in the autumn of 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Howe have one daughter, Jessie E. George H. Howe,

a brother of the subject of this sketch, came to Lansing in 1868. He remained here and in Illinois for a short time, after which he returned to New York.

Miles M. Trowbridge, Register of Deeds of Mower county, is serving his second term in that capacity, having been elected first in the fall of 1880. He is a son of S. H. Trowbridge, who settled in Racine county, Wisconsin, in 1836, where he had removed from Monroe county, New York. In 1863 he settled in Lyle, in this county. Mr. Trowbridge enlisted in September, 1861, in the First Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, for a period of three years. Being severely wounded at the battle of Perryville, Kentucky, October 8, 1862, he was discharged the 15th of November following. He received a gun shot wound in one of his shoulders, from the effects of which he has never fully recovered; however, in September, 1864, having sufficiently recovered to enable him to again enter the service, he re-enlisted in the Fourth Minnesota Regiment of Volunteers, joining that regiment at Altoona, and accompanied Sherman in his memorial march to the sea. On the close of the war he returned to Mower county, where his father had removed in 1863, and engaged in farming. In the fall of 1877 he was elected one of the County Commissioners of Mower county, and served several years, and was elected to his present position, as before stated, in 1880. Mr. Trowbridge is a competent and efficient officer. Mrs. Trowbridge was formerly Rachael Crawford, daughter of John Crawford, an early settler of Racine county. They have five children, John S., Henry M., Mary E., Alfred L., Frank.

## CLERK OF THE COURTS.

John F. Atherton was elected in the fall of 1869, and served until 1875. He was born in Waterbury, Vermont, August 20, 1819. He married Lucy Haskins in 1846. He lived in Vermont twenty-seven years, in Illinois two years, Michigan eighteen years, Minnesota eleven years, Colorado six years, California one and a half years. He came to Mower county in 1866. His life has been chiefly spent at farming and trading. In 1884, he resided in California.

S. Sweningsen, is the present District Clerk of Mower county. He was born in Winnebago county, Illinois, June 29th, 1849, where he resided until the summer of 1871, when he came to Goodhue county, Minnesota, and to Austin the following autumn, where he engaged as a clerk for a while, and then went to Lyle, and engaged with Irgens & Knutson, General Merchants. In the fall of 1875, he engaged in the mercantile trade at Adams, under the firm name of Sweningsen & Co., and was appointed Postmaster there the following year.

In 1876, the firm established a drug store at Taopi, which they conducted in connection with their business at Adams. In the fall of 1877, they opened a general store at Rose Creek, and soon after the firm disposed of their other mercantile interests. Mr. Sweningsen continued in trade at Rose Creek about three years, when he came to Austin in the fall of 1880, and engaged in the boot and shoe trade, which he still continues, under the firm name of Sweningsen & Johnson. He was elected to his present official position in the fall 1881. His term will expire with December 1886. He is a Republican,

politically, but was elected on an Independent ticket. His wife, whose maiden name was Margaret Carr, was born in Illinois. They have one daughter, Stella May.

SHERIFF.

J. B. Yates, first Sheriff of Mower county, was born in Lockport, New York, in 1829. He removed with his parents to Cayuga county, when but three years of age, remained in Cayuga and Onondaga counties until 1848, when he removed to Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, where he was engaged in farming, hotel and mercantile business. After coming to Austin, he was for three years engaged in the mercantile trade with V. P. Lewis, and for many years devoted his attention principally to farming, his farm being in the town of Lansing, not far distant. He has also been engaged in the grain trade. His father, David Yates, settled in Columbia county, Wisconsin, in 1849, where he resided until his decease. Mr. Yates has been twice married; his first wife, Pluma Morrill, was a native of Canada, and died in 1861; his present wife was Rebecca Sargeant, daughter of James T. Sargeant, of Austin. Mr. Yates by his first marriage, has one daughter Sarah, wife of Harry Griswold, of St. Paul, where he is engaged in the State Auditor's office. By his second and last marriage has one son, James T.

J. B. Yates was the first Sheriff elected in Mower county. Among the pioneers of Mower county perhaps there is none more highly esteemed than Jerry Yates. He has figured largely in all the public interests of the county: It was through his shrewdness that the county seat removal was effected. He also displayed his genuine genius, when

he succeeded in having recorded the first plat of Austin. As an officer, he made an excellent one, in whatever capacity he was placed. His indomitable will power, coupled with a liberal minded and generous nature, gave him an opportunity to become a leader among the first settlers of the county. He being a generous minded man, there might here be recorded many instances where he has taken it upon himself to raise money for various objects, and succeeded because of his popularity among the masses. He possessed a keen, shrewed nature, seeing far into the future, through circumstances of the present. He is a man of congenial nature, and at an early day was noted for his cunning ways. Always light hearted and hopeful, he made a large circle of friends.

George W. Bishop was elected Sheriff in 1857, serving two years. Mr. Bishop was born January 8, 1826, in Genesee county, New York. He was married to Martha J. Whitney, in January, 1851. They lived in New York seven years; Ashtabula county, Ohio, fourteen years; Boone county, Illinois, six years, and moved to Mower county in the spring of 1857. He was elected County Commissioner from LeRoy township, where he settled upon coming to the county. In 1861 he enlisted in company "K," Fourth Regiment, Minnesota Infantry. His family left the State during the Indian trouble. While in the service he served as sargeant, and was disabled at Corinth, October 3, 1862, and was discharged in March, 1863, when he returned to DeKalb county, Illinois, where his family were. He re-enlisted in the 140th Illinois Infantry in the spring of 1864, and served one year as first quarter-



John Frank

master. He spent a year in Mexico, Missouri, after the war, and in 1867 returned to Mower county with his family. In 1868 he was again elected County Commissioner, serving in that capacity till 1871, when he moved to Chicago, where he still lives and operates in real estate. He was admitted to the bar at Austin in 1859, but never practiced his profession much.

Allan Mollison is the only representative left of a family of five persons, who in 1856 emigrated from Canada to Mower county. They settled on a claim of government land in the town of Austin. This family consisted of mother and four sons, the father having been killed by the kick of a horse in the spring of 1850. The family came from Scotland to Canada in 1843. There were eleven children in the family, all sons except the eldest. Four of the sons died in Scotland. Those that came to Austin with their mother were as follows: David S. B., now a resident of Dakota; Thomas S., who enlisted in the war of the rebellion, in the Sixth Wisconsin Regiment of Volunteer Infantry, and was killed by guerillas near Memphis, Tennessee, in 1862.

The history of the third son, Edwin S., is quite a romantic one. In the spring of 1857 he with two other young men, named Chas. Bodle and — Bates, built a small sail boat at Austin, at the south bridge, and in this boat they sailed down the river to the Mississippi, and thence to New Madrid. From New Madrid they went to Columbus, Kentucky. When the rebellion broke out he entered the Confederate army as a captain in the 6th Tennessee, and was afterwards made colonel of a Cavalry regiment which

he raised within the union lines in Tennessee. He was killed in command of his regiment near Jackson, Mississippi.

Allan Mollison was one of the earliest to respond to the call of the President for men to suppress the rebellion. In fact, he was the first man to enlist from Mower county, and the only man from the county who was a member of the First Minnesota regiment. He enlisted for three months and at the end of that time the regiment was reorganized for the three years' service. He participated in the first battle of Bull Run, where his regiment lost 285 men in the space of five months, including Captain McCune of his company, whom Mr. Mollison himself bore from the field in a dying condition. He was also engaged at Ball's Bluff, where the gallant Gen. Baker was killed, and was through the Peninsular campaign, under Gen. McClellan. He was also at South Mountain, Antietam and Gettysburg. After the battle of Antietam he was transferred to the First United States regular cavalry. He was in General Grant's campaign as far as Cold Harbor, and he accompanied General Sheridan in a raid through the Shenandoah Valley. He returned to Austin at the expiration of his term of service, was elected sheriff of Mower county in 1867 and served four years. He has for a number of years been a traveling representative of the Minneapolis Harvester Works. Mr. Mollison married Jannet M. Mills, a daughter of Hugh R. Mills, who also settled in the town of Austin in 1856. Mr. Mills and his wife, also his son Hugh D. Mills, died at the residence of Mr. Mollison. The mother of Mr. Mollison was fatally injured in 1868, while alighting

from a wagon at her residence, dying the same day.

George Baird, of Austin, settled on the northwest quarter of section 29, in the town of Lansing, in September 1856, where he lived with his family until 1861, when he sold his farm and moved to Austin. The farm on which he located is now owned by R. O. Hall of this city. A brother-in-law of Mr. Baird, Richard O. Hunt, had preceded him by a few months, with whom Mr. Baird and wife passed the following winter. Mr. Baird had begun the erection of a log house that fall, but did not get it ready for his family to occupy till the following spring. This was one of the better class of log houses, and was the first shingled roof house in the township. Mr. Baird was born in New Haven, Connecticut, in July 1832. When he was twenty-one years of age, he went to Chicago, where he worked at his trade, that of carriage maker. He was married in Chicago, to Charlotte E. Brown, who was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1836, and removed with her parents to Chicago in 1852. Mr. Baird's object in coming to Minnesota, was that he might secure a permanent home for himself and family, believing from the accounts he had received of Southern Minnesota, that here was offered such an opportunity as he desired. He left his young wife with her friends near Madison, Wisconsin, and started out to seek a home with the results already given. Mrs. Baird followed her husband in December following. The winter had begun, that terrible winter of 1856 and 1857. She was accompanied by her father as far as Madison, Wisconsin, from where she continued her journey by rail to

Muscoda, the terminus of the road. From Muscoda she completed the journey by stage, via Prairie du Chien, McGregor, and across the country to Austin. This journey consumed sixteen days, and was one of the most remarkable, in many respects, ever accomplished by a woman. [Further mention will be made of this journey.]

In October 1861, Mr. Baird enlisted in the 4th Minnesota Regular Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered out of the service August 7th, 1865, having served nearly four years. He entered the service as a private, and was regularly promoted to a first lieutenant. He participated in the siege of Corinth, battle of Iuka, and at the fall of Corinth, Grant's siege of Vicksburg, where the division to which he belonged, lost heavily. Was at the battle of Mission Ridge, and in Sherman's Atlanta Campaign, and in the March to the Sea. During the latter campaign, and till the close of the war, he was in command of a company. Since his discharge he has resided in Austin, where his family lived during the war. After coming here he was appointed Postmaster of the Austin post office, but resigned after serving a few months. He was elected Sheriff of Mower county in the fall of 1872, which office he held two years. He is now mail agent on the route between St. Paul and McGregor, a position he has held since 1875. He owns a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, in the town of Red Rock, which he purchased in 1874. Mr. and Mrs. Baird have four children. Lyman D., was born October 17th, 1857. Is an attorney at Austin. George Frederick born December 25th, 1859, now in Spink county, Dakota, Edward C., born December 23d,

1861, engaged in a bank at Glencoe, Minnesota. Their youngest is a daughter, Grace E., born September 2d, 1872. They lost three children, all daughters, in infancy.

Reuben O. Hall, senior member of the firm, was born in Rochester, Vermont, in 1829. His ancestors were among the early settlers of the Green Mountain State. His paternal grandfather, a native of Massachusetts, removed to Rochester, some time in the latter part of the eighteenth century, soon after the close of the revolution. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and fought in the battle of Plattsburg. When the subject of this brief biography was twenty-one, being of Douglas's opinion, that Vermont was a good State to move from, he turned his back on his native hills and came west as far as Waukau, Winnebago county, Wisconsin. After a short stay, he left that place for LaSalle county, Illinois. He resided successively in LaSalle, Lee and DuPage counties, Illinois, until he came to Austin, in 1873. Before coming to Minnesota, he was engaged in the mercantile and milling business.

Mr. Hall was Sheriff of Mower county from January 1874 to January 1878. He is now the efficient presiding officer of the school board in Austin. His marriage to Francis A. Smith took place in Winnebago county, Wisconsin, in 1852. The removal to Illinois took place in the same year. Mrs. Hall was born in Schoharie, Schoharie county, New York, in 1834, and came to Wisconsin with her parents in 1851. Mr. and Mrs. Hall have six children, Charlotte C., wife of C. L. West; Eliza M., wife of L. D. Baird; Frank O., who has charge of his

father's farm in the town of Lansing; Freddie, Burt, and Jay.

Mr. Hall's father and mother were both natives of Rochester, Vermont. The former, whose name was Reuben, was born in 1801, the latter in 1799. They came to Wisconsin in 1852. In 1868, they settled in Lansing, where the father died in 1881. The mother is still living, at the advanced age of eighty-five.

Henry B. Cory is a representative pioneer of this county. His father, Thomas W. Cory, was born at New Bedford, Massachusetts, in May, 1812. He went to sea in the whaling service when sixteen years of age, which occupation he followed for a period of twelve years. He was married, at the age of thirty-four years, to Amelia Barker. She was born in Massachusetts; is a daughter of Captain Samuel Barker, of Nantucket. He removed from Massachusetts to Mercer county, Illinois, and thence to Rock Island, in the same State, about 1846, where he engaged in business, establishing the first sash and door factory at that place. He there married his second wife, having lost his first wife in 1850. His second wife, who survives her husband, was Mary Ann Waterman, born at Genesee, Livingston county, New York. The family removed from Illinois, to Mower county, April 19, 1853, and located on section one, in the township of Racine. Two years later Mr. Cory entered land across the county line, in Fillmore county, where he lived until 1880, when he removed to the State of Tennessee, hoping the milder climate of that State would benefit his declining health, but his death occurred December 22, 1882.

Mr. Cory was of Scotch descent, and

possessed many of the peculiarities of that race. He was a man of decided character, honest and upright in business transactions, and was highly esteemed in the community in which he lived so long. Being of a quiet disposition and somewhat retired in his habits, he was better known by his sterling qualities of character than by active participation in the issues of the day. On the organization of Fillmore county he was tendered a seat in the legislature by appointment, which he declined. He was one of the commissioners appointed by the governor, to divide the territory of Fillmore county into the present counties of Fillmore, Houston and Winona. Henry B. Cory was born in Mercer county, Illinois, March 8, 1834, and came to Mower county with his father's family in 1853. He was a member of the Second Minnesota cavalry in the war of the rebellion.

In the fall of 1866 he went to Winona, where he engaged in mason work and resided until the fall of 1877, when he returned to this county. He was postmaster in the House of Representatives in the years 1875, 1876-77. In 1879 he engaged in mercantile trade at Grand Meadow. He was elected sheriff of Mower county in the fall of 1878, and has served in that capacity since, making an efficient and capable officer. Mr. Cory married Anna M. Scribner, a daughter of Samuel Scribner. They have four children—Maude A., Henry B., Susan I., Selia E.

#### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The first Board of County Commissioners elected in the county was constituted of W. B. Spencer, George H. Bemis and H. C.

Blodgett, and were elected in the fall of 1856.

William B. Spencer, one of the pioneers of Mower county, is a native of Rhode Island, born in the town of Covington, September 5, 1823. When three years of age his parents moved to Canada, living there until he was nine, then moved into New York State, town of Deerfield, Rensselaer county. When nine more years were added to his age they went to Warren county, Pennsylvania. He was married October 11, 1842, to Elizabeth McGee. She was born in Warren November 18, 1825. They remained there till 1855, then with a team started to seek a home in the then far west.

At Dunkirk they, with their team, embarked on a boat for Toledo, there took cars for Chicago, from there made their way with team to Lafayette county, Wisconsin. They were accompanied in their journey by a brother and sister. After a rest of two months they started for Minnesota. The men were sick and the wife and sister drove the teams. They came to the river at McGregor, pushed on to Monona, Iowa, where Mr. Spencer left his family and came to Mower county in search of a suitable location. He bought a claim in section 29, town 101, range 14, now known as the town of LeRoy. After purchasing this claim he returned to Iowa for his family, who, on their arrival at their new home, moved into the log cabin and there lived until 1857, when he built a farm house. At the first election for county officers held in the fall of 1856, he was elected County Commissioner, and held that office during the memorable county seat contest. In January, 1857, he was called to Frankford to attend

court as witness. The snow was very deep, the crust very hard, and as no track had been broken, he was obliged to make the trip on foot, a distance of fourteen miles. Dr. Jones accompanied him. They started for home one afternoon, and about half way, were struck by a severe snow storm. Knowing they could not find their way in the darkness, concluded to spend the night where they were, on the open prairie. Dr. Jones broke the crust for a little distance and tramped back and forth all night, while Mr. Spencer burrowed in under the crust and lay there until four o'clock next morning. The storm had ceased, the moon came out, they started for home and reached it in the early morn. At the first election he was elected a member of the town board. In October, 1861, he enlisted, and assisted Captain Moore in raising Company K, Fourth Minnesota; went with the regiment as second lieutenant to Fort Snelling. During the winter he was taken sick and tendered his resignation on account of sickness of himself and family, which was accepted. He enlisted again in 1862 in Company M, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers, and was mustered in as first orderly sargeant; went to the western frontier with Sibley's expedition; served fourteen months then was mustered out with the regiment at St. Paul.

Farming claims his attention—at the present time, raising grain and stock. Mr. and Mrs. Spencer are the parents of four children, Marcia A., Henrietta A., William H., Elizabeth J. Marcia is a graduate at the State Normal School at Winona, Minnesota.

Rev. Alanson Beach, one of the pioneers of Mower county, was born in the town of

Rensselaerville, Albany county, New York, October 25, 1808. His younger days were spent at school and on the farm. After finishing his studies he engaged in teaching winters, and in agricultural pursuits in the summer. He was ordained a minister of the M. E. church at a meeting of the Troy conference at Schenectady, New York, May 15, 1853, by Bishop Waugh. He never assumed pastoral duties but preached whenever called upon, doing good work in many places. He was married March 15, 1832, to Sinai Tanner. She was born in Albany county, New York, February 24, 1809. They remained two years in Albany county after their marriage. They then moved to Schoharie county, town of Fulton, where they bought a farm and lived for seven years. They then sold out and returned to Albany county, where they remained until 1854, then moved to Greene county. In the summer of 1856 Mr. Beach came to Minnesota to find a home for his family, coming directly to Mower county. He purchased land in sections 32-33, town 101, range 18, now known as the town of Lyle. After purchasing the land he returned to New York State for his family, returning with them as far as Fulton, on the Mississippi, his son John accompanying them, while their son Wilson started with three horses, a wagon and a buggy. At Albany he embarked on a canal boat for Buffalo, where he took passage for Chicago on a steamer. He then struck out overland, and met the family at Fulton, and proceeded with them to their new home. The family moved into the house that was on the land at the time he bought it. It was a large log house with a puncheon floor, and

a stone chimney on the outside. The family lived in this house some years. He then built a large frame house. Mr. Beach died July 30, 1877. Mrs. Beach still makes her home at the old place. They had three children born to them—John, Wilson, Zillah T. Zillah is now the wife of James Goslie, and lives in the town of London, Freeborn county. Mr. Beach was prominent in town and county matters, and held various offices of trust. He was county commissioner for eight years; was chairman of the board a greater part of the time. Their oldest son, John, was born in Rensselaerville, Albany county, New York, May 16, 1833. When he was one year old his parents moved to Schoharie county, and lived seven years. They then returned to Albany county, where he grew to manhood. When he was twenty-one years old he went to Greene county, New York, and took charge of his grandfather's farm. In 1855 he made a trip to Iowa, but returned to New York State, remaining until the fall of 1856, when he came with his father's family to Mower county. He took a claim in section 26, where he lived three years. He then bought land in sections 32-33, a portion of which he improved. He lived here two years and then moved to the old homestead, which he has since occupied. He was married September 3, 1856, to Catherine M. Morrison. They have three children—Mary A., Frank M., Katie M. Wilson was born in Schoharie county, New York, May 17, 1836. He made his home with his parents, except while in the service during the rebellion, until 1869, when he was married to Mary O. Sabin. She was born

in the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. At the time of his marriage he settled on the farm that he now occupies, in section 32, town of Lyle. In 1882 he moved to Austin, where he now lives.

In the fall of 1871 Hiram E. Tanner was elected and served during the years 1871, 1873, 1874 and 1875. He was born in New York, November 26, 1817. When a young man he went with his parents to Pennsylvania. In July, 1841, he was married to Eliza V. Meeker, a native of New York. In November, 1856, they came to Minnesota, stopping at Winona over that winter. The following spring they came to Mower county, and settled on section 1 of Red Rock township, where they lived until the date of their death. Mr. Tanner died June 8, 1880, and his wife died April 2, 1872.

Mr. Tanner was a staunch Republican and held several other offices within Mower county. He was highly esteemed by all who knew him. Their family consisted of five children, of whom Oscar L., was one; who enlisted in 1862, and was killed at Mobile, April 8.

John Gilligan was born in Ireland, May 6, 1846, was but three years of age when his parents emigrated to America. He made his home with his parents, who settled in Adams township, Mower county, in 1856, where he lived until 1871, when he bought the north half of the southeast quarter of section 36, where he has erected a good set of farm buildings, including a dwelling house, barn and granary. His farm contains two hundred and forty acres, nearly all improved. He was married in April, 1871, to Mary Madden, daughter of William Madden. Mr.

Gilligan has been prominent in public affairs. He has filled the various offices of trust in the town. He was also elected to the office of County Commissioner, serving very satisfactorily.

Andrew J. French came to the town of Windom, in October, 1861, at which time he purchased eighty acres of land in section seven, and forty acres in the section joining in the town of Austin. The land in Windom was unimproved with the exception of one acre, which had been broken. There was a log house on the place into which the family moved, and in which they resided until 1872, when he erected the frame house which they now occupy. Mr. French has improved and beautified the place by planting shade and fruit trees as well as shrubs. He was born in the town of Amsterdam, Montgomery county, New York, November 30, 1824. When he was fifteen years old his parents moved to Oneida county, where he grew to manhood. He was joined in marriage February 7, 1850, to Mary A. Carter. She was born in the town of Solon, Chenango county, New York. They lived in Oneida county until 1861. In March of that year came to Mower county and spent the summer one mile west of Austin, coming from there to Windom, as before stated. Mr. and Mrs. French are parents of six children. Charles J. was born March 29, 1852, and died March 18, 1873. Frances L., Marshall E., Marcia A., born January 11, 1862; died March 21, 1884. John H., Minnie D. Since coming to the county, Mr. French has been prominent in both town and county affairs. He has served as County Commissioner, and in the town has filled the office

of Supervisor, Assessor and Justice of the Peace.

Orlando C. LaBar, came to Mower county, Minnesota, in March 1865, and settled at Lansing, and engaged in farming. In 1884, Mr. LaBar was engaged in buying grain, which business he has followed at different times since 1869. He was born in Rockfort, Carbon county, Pennsylvania, May 29, 1846. His parents were natives of Pennsylvania. In 1855, they moved to Wisconsin, and settled at Berlin, Green Lake county, and from there went to Fond du Lac county, and in 1865, came to Mower county as above stated, where the parents died. They had a family of nine children, the subject of this sketch being the eighth. He was raised on a farm, and received a good common school education. In 1872, he bought a farm in section 28, in Udolpho township, to which he removed in the spring of 1873. He now owns 320 acres in the township. Mr. LaBar is a Republican, and has been a member of the board of county commissioners from 1876 to 1881, two years of which time he was chairman. Mr. LaBar was married in October 1869, to Mary Stokes. She was born near Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Her parents moved to Mower county in the fall of 1865, and settled in the town of Udolpho, where the mother died. The father lived in the township until 1877, when he went to Utah. He now lives in Idaho. Rev. George Stokes, the father of Mrs. LaBar, is remembered by the old settlers as an honest, upright man, and a true Christian. He has the credit of holding the first religious services in several townships, and of organizing a number of churches in the county. Mr. and

Mrs LaBar have two children, Jessie V., George S.

Charles L. Schroeder, was born in Waldreck Province, Prussia, November 21, 1844. Came to the United States in 1849, with his father's family, and settled in Washington county, Wisconsin. Charles L., came to this town with his older brothers, Henry and John, in 1865. Two years later he bought 80 acres in section 30, and has since added 240 acres more, and now owns a fine farm of 320 acres, all of which is under good cultivation. January 24, 1874, he went to Washington county, Wisconsin, where he was married to Elizabeth Christgan. She was born in Washington county, November 7, 1849. Her father, Matthias Christgan, came from Baeran in 1847. Her parents come to Racine township in 1875, and resides on Mr. Schroeder's farm, her father being 72 years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder have three children—Alma, born in 1878, Cora, in 1880, Elnora, in 1883. Mr. Schroeder was elected county commissioner in 1881. He has served on the town board of supervisors, also as clerk and treasurer of his school district, and has been prominent in the affairs of the town and county, and is one of their trusted men.

Andres Anderson, one of the first settlers of Mower county, was born in Norway, in 1801. When a young man, he learned the blacksmith's trade, and worked on the first steamboat that ever floated on Lake Mjason, he followed his trade in Norway until 1853, when he left his native land and came to America, landing at Quebec, thence to Milwaukee, and from there to Dane county, where he spent the winter. In June, 1854,

he started for Minnesota, hiring a man<sup>g</sup> with team to take himself and family to Calmar, Iowa, at which place he left his family and proceeded to Mower county. He took a claim on section 28, and erected a log cabin as before stated, after which he returned to Calmar, for his family, returning in July. He made this farm his home, until his death, June 3rd, 1878. His widow still lives on the homestead. There were seven children born to them, five of whom are now living. Hans C., Clara, Sarah, Helen, Maria. Hans C., the only son now living, was born in Norway, August 18th, 1838. His time in his native land was spent in school and on the farm. He was fifteen years of age, when he came to America with his parents; he has always made his home with them. He was married in 1864 to Rachel Richardson. She was born in Norway. They have eight children, Stena, Lena, Andrew, Nellie, Maria, Fena, Helen, Henry. Mr. Anderson now owns and occupies the homestead. He has built a good frame house and barn; he has bought additional land, amounting at the present to 320 acres. Mr. Anderson has been prominent in town and county affairs. He has held the office of assessor and supervisor; at the present time is a member of the board of county commissioner, to which office he was elected in the fall of 1880.

J. B. Graves was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, May 21st, 1828. When ten years of age, his parents moved to Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood, receiving his education in the log school house of that day. When nineteen years of age, he served an apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade, which business he has

followed most of the time since. Mr. Graves was married, January, 1854, to Margaret Clark. She was born in Otsego county, New York, in 1833. In the spring of 1861, they came to Mower county, Minnesota, and settled in Brownsdale, where he has since resided. Mr. and Mrs. Graves have four children, Edwin B., Alice C., Mary L. and Howard. Mr. Graves, in politics, is a staunch Democrat, and a member of the present board of county commissioners. He is a member of Lafayette Lodge, No. 116, A. F. and A. M., at Brownsdale.

A. C. Bisbee, ex-county commissioner is a native of York State, born in Delaware county, February 22nd, 1823. He was reared to agricultural pursuits, receiving a common school education. When a young man he learned the trade of millwright, at which he worked for a number of years. In 1850 he settled on the present site of the village of Fairwater, Wisconsin. He laid out that vil-

lage, and in fact was the founder of it. During his residence there, he made a trip to California, going over-land with teams; was six months on the way. He returned by way of the Isthmus. The following spring, 1866, came to Mower county, and settled on the northwest quarter of section 27, in the town of Nevada, where he now lives. His farm contains 620 acres, nearly all of which is under cultivation. He has been twice married. His first wife to whom he was married in 1858, was Nancy Harwood. Four children blessed this union. Rufus A., Burton A., George H., Chancy. Mrs. Bisbee died in 1867. His second marriage was in 1868. By this union there are seven children, named Virgil, Maria, Alta, Lulu, Curtis, Allen and Sadra. Mr. Bisbee has filled the offices of town clerk, assessor, justice of the peace, and at present is a member of the board of supervisors.

## CHAPTER XI.

## AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

Mower county is acknowledged as being among the best and most prosperous agricultural and stock raising counties in Minnesota. Its people are wide awake and keep step with the progressive march of the times in all that pertains to a civilization of happiness, industry and culture. Its future possibilities may be set high among the cluster of its ninety sisters, a pride to the noble State. But like all this portion of the Northwest, the agricultural history of Mower county must record some disastrous failures. The whole southern and southwestern portions of Minnesota, as well as the greater part of Iowa, have had serious disadvantages to contend with and obstacles to encounter. The first settlers of the county were mostly farmers, and they were, with but few exceptions, poor men, as is the case in the history of every agricultural region. In fact, few had more than enough to barely get settled upon their lands; but they came with that which was in those days equal to it—training in agricultural pursuits, brawny hands that were able and not ashamed to work, and, in connection with industrious habits,

the energy and determination to win success. The country was new, and there was no alternative but that success must be wrought from the soil, which was their only wealth and their only hope. And, in spite of all the obstacles and inconveniences, notwithstanding the fact that the whole aim of the farming community has changed, success has attended their efforts. Nor is the end yet reached, but the county has a mine of wealth yet undeveloped, which, as years roll on, will grow more and more valuable as the agricultural population become more and more able to utilize it.

Early in the development of this country and, in fact, until a comparatively recent date, wheat was the main product, and for a number of years excellent crops were raised with scarcely a failure. At the present time wheat has given up its former place to other cereals, and farmers find many other avenues in which to devote their time and energy—with stock raising as the particular aim. The general theory, or it might be more properly said, it is known in a general way, that the wheat belt has been trav-

eling westward ever since it was first started in Massachusetts, when the pilgram fathers landed there over 265 years ago. At first it moved on its westward march, not in a very rapid way, until the valley of the Genesee, in New York, was the great wheat raising region. But when Michigan, Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota were opened up for cultivation, the wheat growing center began its kangaroo-like jumps toward the setting sun, and Minnesota was for years its resting place. But its receding line has almost entirely passed the confines of Minnesota and its center now rests in Dakota, Northern Minnesota and Nebraska, how long there to remain time alone can determine. These changes wrought a revolution in the pursuits of the farming classes, and stock raising, for which this country was by nature so excellently adapted, has since occupied much attention. Its gradual increase has placed corn as a cereal, in the front rank at present. Rye, oats, barley and all other cereals common to this latitude, except wheat, do well, and vegetables and small fruits, grow abundantly where well cultivated. Wheat, during the last few years, has yielded an average of about twelve bushels per acre. It was formerly thought that apples could not be successfully raised here, but experiments have proven the matter to the contrary, and there are now a number of thrifty orchards in the county.

## GENERAL REMARKS.

In this connection are presented a number of extracts from an article from the pen of H. O. Basford. In November, 1883, he published a special edition of his paper, the *Austin Register*, in which the advantages of this region are ably set forth.

In speaking of the soil it is said: "The soil of Mower county is a rich, black, sandy loam from 2 to 4 feet deep, upon a subsoil of clay, underlying which are beds of gravel, in which veins of the purest water are found at from fifteen to twenty-five feet from the surface. The soil is very uniform throughout the county, being of the same general character, eminently adapted for the raising of diversified crops, wheat, corn, potatoes, barley, oats, sorghum, flax, and all the products of the field and garden yield abundant returns to the husbandman. Experience has taught that only by diversified farming can we hope to retain the nutritive properties of the soil. Continuous crops of small grains year after year, without change, upon the same land, must destroy the power of production in any soil. Our farmers have learned this by their own and others' experience, and they thoroughly understand the importance of living in a country where rotation of crops is made possible by the happy combination of favorable soil, climate and rainfall. Every farmer understands the importance of giving his land an occasional rest by seeding it with clover, timothy, millet, etc., and then reverting to the cereals again.

\* \* \* "Mower county has been weighed and not found wanting in anything that goes to make up certainty of remuneration to him who cultivates the soil. We have as good corn land as can be found in Iowa or Nebraska. We have an abundance of the purest water in our streams, springs, lakes and wells. Our soil produces large crops of everything that can be grown in any of the northern prairie states. We have an abundance of timber for fuel, fencing, etc. Our

wild lands are covered with the richest and most nutritious grasses, eminently adapted to grazing. This wild hay is being shipped to other markets at good prices, while our clover, timothy, Hungarian and millet fields are unequaled in any country.

From the census report of 1880 the following interesting facts are gleaned:

At the time of taking the census in that year there were 2,264 farms in the country, and 275,528 acres of improved land. The total value of farms, including land, fences and buildings was \$6,638,617; the value of farm implements and machinery, \$467,985; the value of live stock was \$937,408; the cost of building and repairing fences in 1879 was \$22,504; the cost of fertilizers purchased in 1879 was \$9,124; the estimated value of all farm productions sold, consumed or on hand for 1879 was \$1,108,526.

The principal farm products of the county reported in the census of 1880, were as follows: 257,342 bushels of barley; 1,500 of buckwheat; 423,113 of Indian corn; 1,044,943 of oats; 2,506 bushels of orchard products; 42,750 tons of hay; 142,644 bushels of Irish potatoes; 1,975 pounds of tobacco.

The live stock and productions on the farms in Mower county, on June 1, 1880, were as follows: 8,896 horses; 224 mules and asses; 125 working oxen; 6,693 milch cows; 8,070 other cattle; 3,025 sheep; 12,047 swine; 16,403 pounds of wool; 31,421 gallons of milk; 531,670 pounds of butter; 5,340 pounds of cheese.

In 1880 there were thirty manufacturing establishments in Mower county, involving a total capital invested of \$170,200. The average number of hands employed was 77;

the total amount paid in wages during the year was \$26,938; the total cost of material consumed was \$252,651; the total value of products was \$324,812.

As to manufacturing industries in the county in 1870, there were 3 wagon and carriage making establishments; employing 18 hands, and involving a capital of \$9,500; \$5,550 more paid in wages during the year, consuming \$5,910 worth of material; and manufacturing \$22,180 worth of vehicles. At that time there were three flouring mill establishments in the county. They employed 16 hands, and involved a capital of \$40,000; \$6,500 was paid in wages during the year; \$115,250 worth of materials was consumed; and the value of products was \$143,110.

The total number of manufacturing establishments in the county in 1870 was 32; there were 6 steam engines, with total horsepower of 170; the total number of hands employed was 93; the total capital invested was \$79,800; the total amount of wages paid during the year was \$23,050; \$140,340 worth of material was used; and \$222,490 worth of products manufactured.

In 1870 there were 32 religious organizations in the county, with 18 church edifices; 4,400 sittings, and \$52,000 worth of property. This was divided among the various denominations, as follows: Baptist, 5 organizations; Congregational, 2; Episcopal, 1; Lutheran, 6; Methodist, 8; Presbyterian, 3; Roman Catholic, 5.

#### STATISTICS FOR 1870.

In 1870 there were 1164 improved farms in Mower county; 1 had less than 3 acres; 9 had over 3 and less than 10 acres; 60 had

between 10 and 20 acres; 520 had between 20 and 50; 445 had between 50 and 100 acres; 120 had between 100 and 500 acres; while 1 had over 500 acres.

At that time there 65,522 acres of improved land in the county; 9,429 acres of woodland; 85,315 acres of other unimproved lands. The cash value of farms at that time was \$2,674,775; the cash value of farm implements and machinery, \$231,645. The total amount of wages paid during the year, including value of board, was \$104,725; the total estimated value of all farm products, including betterments and additions to stock, \$949,145; the value of produce market gardens, was \$525; the value of forest products was \$1,730; the total value of home manufactures was \$535; the total value of animals slaughtered or sold for slaughter, was \$80,535.

The total value of all live stock was \$516,132. There were 2,821 horses in the county; 65 mules and asses; 3,073 milch cows; 930 working oxen; 3,613 other cattle; 1,945 sheep; 2,973 swine.

There were 673,017 bushels of spring wheat produced; 118,771 of corn; 463,085 of oats; 39,975 of barley; 385 of buckwheat; 7,670 pounds of wool; 276 bushels of peas and beans; 63,244 bushels of Irish potatoes; 295,896 pounds of butter; 2,130 pounds of cheese; 18,151 tons of hay produced; 4,784 pounds hops. 44,470 pounds flax; 210 bushels flax seed; 5 pounds wax; 420 pounds of honey.

A local writer speaks of the resources of Mower county, as follows:

"We have annually expended a large fund of money and labor upon our high-ways, and

in place of the lonely prairie trails, which we, whose hair is becoming silvered, remember almost as a dream of the past, we now have girding the county from east to west, and north to south, upon every section-line, splendid graded roads, equally passable at all seasons. Under the timber culture act, many of our farmers have beautified the drives around their respective farms, by planting forest trees along each thoroughfare, thereby improving their farms and the highways at the same time. The farmers of the timber culture act should be canonized. They builded better than they knew. While Mower county has an abundance of natural groves of forest trees, the planting of trees along the roads secures to their cultivators the everlasting gratitude of every traveler, and beautifies our landscapes immeasurably. In 1883 we had 23,360 rods of forest trees planted along our highways. But one other county in the State, at that time, had done so much to beautify its highways. Since that time the number of rods planted in Mower county has increased fifty per cent., and we now claim to be the banner county of the State, in this as in other respects.

#### THE BRIDGES

over our streams are solidly built, of wood, iron and stone. We have several fine iron and wooden truss bridges, spanning the Cedar river at different points, while every smaller stream is bridged at almost every section line, and every bridge is paid for and free of toll. The county owns every road and bridge, and the farmer is not confronted every few miles with a toll-gate-keeper. Stick a pin there and here."

## CREAMERIES.

At present Mower county is supplied with four creameries in full operation, and the present season will place others at work transforming our nutritious prairie grasses into the delicious creamery butter that so tickles the palates of Eastern and Foreign epicures; that they readily pay forty and fifty cents per pound for it in preference to the time-honored "country butter" we used to brag about at an inferior price. Time was when "farm butter" was king, but since the advent of creameries the product of the home dairy has lost caste, and cannot compete with the more modern article in quality nor price. A few years since the good farmers' wives of Mower county were glad to realize six or eight cents per pound for their butter, after performing all the labor of milking, caring for the cream, churning, packing and delivering at the store counter. But with the advent of creameries comes a mighty change. Many of our readers (at least their wives and daughters) will appreciate the difference between the old plan and the new, when we present our present

## MODUS OPERANDI

in the butter business, instead of the usual routine of churning, packing and delivering the butter to the august groceryman at prices that, to use a Westernism, would not pay for the "wear and tear of the cow." We set our milk away in cans furnished by our creameries, and specially adapted for producing the greatest amount of cream. At regular intervals we hear the merry ringing of the cream-gatherer's bell, our cream is transferred to his cans, which are so grad-

uated that one inch in depth of cream will produce, when churned, one pound of butter. He pleasantly pays us fifteen or eighteen cents for each particular inch, and goes on his way rejoicing, leaving us happy in the possession of twice as much money as we could have realized if we had taken the extra trouble of churning and marketing our butter. Then we take the residue in the milk cans to the pig-sty and receive the everlasting thanks of "Beauty" and "Spot" for our generosity. And that horrid "churning-day" never appears, spectre-like, to mar the smoothness of the lives of our wives and daughters. Just think of that, our friends! Now consult these figures, (and the gentlemen named, if you please) and compare their method with yours, if you are following the old plan we used to in the east, and we know you are, for we have visited you several times lately. The following patrons of the Buena Vista Creamery, at Storm Lake, Iowa, during the month of July, 1882, realized the following amounts from their cream products:

Names.	Cows.	Cash per mo.	Aver. per head.
H. Luhman	11	\$25 88	\$2 35
J. Wise	4	16 17	2 35
C. E. Angler	12	31 92	2 66
T. Wise	14	24 42	1 74
F. Buckles	11	22 34	2 03
F. M. Dodge	18	68 90	3 83
J. Stewart	4	12 08	3 02
Fred Scharr	3	14 96	4 75

Now taking these which are average results, we find that of the three thousand cows which supplied the above named creamery each netted its owner \$2.70 on an average during the poorest months in the year, which allowing eight months to each cow, would make each cow net \$21.60, after supplying

the farmer with milk enough to support one pig. This, our friends, is what we are doing and the way we do it. Do you think we wish to return to the ways of our forefathers? Remember the cream-gatherer takes our milk at our doors, and leaves our cash in our hands. We trade at any store we please, and our merchants make only one profit on the goods we buy, and knowing we have the cash in our pockets, they are content with reasonable margins. Now we have given you a bit of our experience, merely to fix a few facts in your minds, that you can rely on as facts. We are not advertising our creamery butter; it has done that itself, and stands on its merits; but we wish to emphasize these truths:

1st. The people who are now thinking of settling in Southern Minnesota in the coming years, need not fear the first years of settlement, even if they should locate upon our wild prairie lands. Let them bring ten to twenty-five head of cows, enclose eighty acres of our native grass lands, and get rich faster than they can ever dream of doing in the east.

2d. Prairie grass will make A. 1 butter. However it is well to have a pasture of tame grass for early and late feed, as the wild grasses are not so early in spring nor so late in the fall as the tame varieties.

3d. The cost of fencing an 80 acre farm will be less than \$250 for posts and wire.

4th. There may come a time when there may be no foreign demand for grain. Therefore we fortify our position by introducing the creamery with its superior facilities for producing first-class butter. Abundant crops of grain abroad may in the future, as in the

past, keep our western supplies at home, or our railroad rates may be increased so much that little profit would be left for the grain grower. Having in view these contingencies, it is well for us to diversify our farming. Therefore we are gradually reducing our wheat acreage and increasing our corn and cow-herds. There never can be an over-production of the best creamery butter. In the dairy regions of Europe we can not expect any marked increase of production, because (stick a pin here), they cannot compete with "Minnesota creamery choice" in quality, as may be seen by glancing at Liverpool market reports. We can give them several points and then beat them in price at their own doors.

5th. Four facts suggest the fifth: Should our market become overstocked with the best creamery butter, the western dairyman can afford to compete with the eastern and European manufacturers, until the latter are driven from the field, for this reason.

Here the prime factor in the account of the dairy farmer is the cheapness of land. He can, here, buy land for the annual rent he would have to pay for an equal number of acres in the east, while his freight is less than one cent per pound higher to deliver in New York, Liverpool or Paris. Our western product has been steadily gaining in favor until it now occupies the proud position of best quotations in the market reports of the east and Europe, and it will maintain its character, from the simple reason that our manufacturers can not afford to lose the prestige they have gained, and the victory they have won over sectional or local prejudice. We have presented these facts to show you,

not only the possibilities, but the probabilities of Mower county's future in the dairying business, as well as its present magnitude.

Indian corn is rapidly superseding wheat in popularity with our farmers. Our soil is admirably adapted to the culture of maize, our genial climate, bright sun and generous rain fall maturing the crop in a much shorter time than is required in localities farther east and south. The success of a business is best measured by its growth and development. Enthusiastic over the successful harvest of many abundant crops of wheat which were marketed at good prices, our people had grown to believe in the infallibility of the wheat crop and its perennial foreign demand. But when the bottom fell out of the wheat market and the yield was reduced by the constant cropping of the same cereal upon the same land, then and not till then people began to study agricultural economy. When a few wise men came from the east and began to cultivate the soil in a systematic manner by rotation of the crops, the majority of the "old timers" looked upon them as visionaries. We did not like to leave our first love, and so contended ourselves with another trial of wheat, meanwhile keeping an eye on our new neighbors. We expected them to "bust," but they steadily refused to do so. We harvested our crop of wheat and marketed it for enough to make up all our losses, while we wondered how our corn friends could be so foolish as not to drop experimenting and get down to straight wheat farming. Well we followed that ignis fatuus—wheat straight—for several years and—lived. Jones, meanwhile, planted his corn, fed it to his stock, raised enough wheat, bar-

ley, oats, potatoes, etc., to keep himself running, built a new house and barn, and was, himself, the wonder of the neighborhood. He was looked upon as a prodigy of thrift. Unconsciously he had grown into the possession of a fine herd of cattle and his farm looked like he had come to stay. He usually had a little money to buy a cow now and then from his wheat friends, when they were pinched for funds to make a payment on a self-binder. He lived—fat.

We had unconsciously grown into the ownership of a lot of crazy machinery in the shape of old reapers, self-binders, threshing machines, etc., representing a value of one-tenth their original cost. Prejudice is a poor imitator, but even prejudice can be made to look itself squarely in the eye and wilt. We fell into the habit of thinking about Jones. He had not taken our advice, and we hated to "acknowledge the corn."

Well, we gradually fell away from old ways. People began to talk diversity of crops, until, in 1880 the county of Mower presented the following statistics in the U. S. census report, all of which goes to prove that we now endorse Jones' system of farming:

Wheat, bushels.....	1,370,160
Oats.....	1,044,943
Corn.....	423,113
Barley.....	257,342
Rye.....	1,139
Buckwheat.....	1,444
Potatoes.....	81,601
Beans.....	642
Sugar cane molasses, gallons....	4,636
Tame hay, tons.....	10,025
Flaxseed, bushels.....	1,087
Wild hay, tons.....	45,350
Timothy seed, bushels.....	6,260
Clover seed.....	1,692
Apples.....	1,266
Grapes, pounds.....	1,714
Tobacco.....	126

Since 1880 the acreage of wheat has been steadily decreasing and corn is surging to the front. We have crowned the latter king. This year we will gather a million bushels of corn, the greater part of which will be fed to our stock. We have no more heavy machinery bills to meet. We are effectually divorced from the wheat mania and its concomitant troubles. We are on our feet again, thank Jones, and there is room for thousands of others to stand with us in Mower county. When we were in the east a short time since, our friends would ask us: "Can you raise corn in Minnesota?" "How about vegetables?" and numberless other questions betraying their total ignorance of the capabilities of our soil and climate. Being in the southern tier of counties in the state we have the same climate and productions as Iowa, which ranks first in the Union as a corn producing state. Our gardens are unsurpassed in the variety and quality of the vegetables they produce, while all the fruits that have been planted flourish in all the luxuriance of more southern climes. This is, as yet, a comparatively new country and it takes time to develop the horticulture and pomology of any new place. Many orchards are just beginning to bear, and the next two years will quadruple the yield of fruit chronicled in 1880, besides introducing many new items of statistics in the census returns.

We would call special attention to our  
**POTATO CROP.**

It is a conceded fact that the potato is a native of the North. All the new varieties originate here. There has never been a celebrated seedling from the South. This is the meaning of the advice to go North for seed.

The further North it can be grown, the better its quality and flavor. Hence Southern Minnesota tubers readily sell at almost extravagant prices in St. Louis, Chicago and New Orleans, when potatoes grown in the neighborhood of those cities are compelled to beg for a buyer. Since 1880 the crop has been doubled and each year farmers find ready sale for their products at very remunerative prices. This promises to become one of our principal farming industries because of the certainty of good crops and the precedence our Minnesota potatoes take in the leading markets. The Colorado potato beetle and other insects do not destroy the young plants as in the east and having the field to themselves our potatoes do themselves proud. They are generally very large, very "mealy" and of delicious flavor.

We turn to the U. S. census report of 1880, to call attention to some of our other Mower county industries:

Honey, pounds.....	6,415
Butter, ".....	359,162
Cheese, ".....	21,047
Cheese factories.....	2
Creameries.....	3
Wool, pounds.....	9,687
Hives of beeves.....	409
Sheep (1880).....	1,189
Sheep (1881).....	3,851
Wool, pounds (1881).....	13,729
Horses (1881).....	7,760
Cows (1881).....	6,409
Other cattle over 3 years old.....	464
Other cattle under 3 years old....	5,875
Total cattle.....	12,748
Mules and asses.....	171
Hogs.....	6,820
Valuation assessed personal property.....	\$1,269,941

Now look at the following extract from the railroad commissioners report for the year ending June 30, 1882, and you can judge better concerning the magnitude of business transacted by the farmers of Mower county.

We present the shipments of different commodities from our railroad stations for the time embraced in the commissioners report, (one year.)

COMMODITIES SHIPPED EAST.

	Mds. T'ns.	Flour Bbls.	Wh't Bush.	Oth. Grain Bush.	Oth. Fm. P'ds T'ns
Grand Meadow	204	2	91,993	106,611	434
Dexter	20	0	41,475	39,947	183
Brownsdale	86	2	92,893	41,069	299
Lyle	261	205	57,497	49,339	130
Le Roy	678	0	35,129	63,422	1,544
Taopi	102	0	55,395	24,362	253
Adams	108	0	56,324	14,306	130
Rose Creek	108	0	49,577	45,868	294
Austin	1,849	16,051	62,383	42,307	989
Ramsey	27	275	34,729	10,269	16
Lansing	28		16,478	14,879	15

COMMODITIES SHIPPED WEST.

	Mds. T'ns.	Flour Bbls.	Wh't Bush.	Other Grain Bush.	Oth. Fm. P'ds
Grand Meadow	374	0	2,628	29,676	80
Dexter	409	0	4,022	8,238	112
Brownsdale	141	0	447	26,259	191
Lyle	9,136	1,297	37,408	131,350	93
LeRoy	348	0	5,497	41,401	44
Taopi	175	0	1,333	15,640	53
Adams	40	2	6,026	13,858	46
Rose Creek	178	0	8,762	15,260	113
Austin	1,002	1,143	27,509	29,520	74
Ramsey	108	35	427	1,444	1
Lansing	217	0	49,866	8,044	0

While we are dealing with this subject we will give the following totals, showing the amount of other business transacted at the several stations named, with the revenue the railroad company derived from the same for this year ending June 30, 1882.

	Freight.		Passengers.		Total Revenue.
	Tons Forwarded.	Tons Received.	No. From.	No. To.	
Grand Meadow	7,053	1,502	2,304	2,188	\$10,525 40
Dexter	3,071	728	1,098	1,011	3,922 25
Brownsdale	5,833	2,357	1,379	1,331	8,451 93
Lyle	16,569	4,197	5,593	5,592	24,189 88
Taopi	3,124	1,353	1,125	1,133	6,682 08
LeRoy	6,191	2,119	2,344	2,325	16,289 08
Adams	2,789	393	1,474	1,413	4,122 29
Rose Creek	3,819	1,016	1,464	1,261	5,249 66
Austin	9,982	12,360	12,349	12,180	67,286 61
Ramsey	1,525	147	147	6,213	11,449 26
Lansing	2,760	654	654	826	3,546 27

These tables are the true exponents of the immense volume of business, which is being transacted within the limits of our own county. They prove to our eastern friends that our agricultural and commercial interests are inferior to very few of the counties in the older States. They prove that we are not sleeping upon our oars,—that Mower county is peopled by an industrious, intelligent population—that Mower county is self-sustaining, besides exporting annually millions of dollars worth of food products. The carefully prepared statistics we present demonstrate the manifold capabilities of our soil and climate. When the 225,000 acres of uncultivated land which we have in the county awaiting the touch of the husbandman's plow, shall have been brought under cultivation, and our population, shall have increased to 30,000, all of which will be done in the next five years, then our exports will be doubled. Farming will be reduced to a science, and the happy-go-lucky system, which has been too long employed by some of our farmers, will give way to methodical work, and Mower county will not yield the palm to any county in the whole Union for superiority in quantity or quality of home productions. Already the tide has set in that will swell our population a hundred fold. The boom is on, and the complete development of our resources is only a question of a very short time. Our virgin acres will soon yield their proportion of the total out-put of farm products. Creameries, cheese factories, paper-mills and wool factories will spring into existence in localities not at present supplied, and our whole people will catch the inspira-

tion that is born of enterprise and with our shoulders to the wheel, we will lift ourselves out of the deep ruts of prejudice and ignorance in which our fathers have traveled. We will utilize our faculties of perception to enlarge our knowledge of the honorable profession of farming, and abandon our antiquated ideas about the one crop system. Not only will we be financially benefited by this influx of intelligent farmers which is just now beginning. We will be intellectually and socially richer.

Their families will increase our army of school children, will necessarily improve our already good attendance. Enthusiasm is greatly dependent upon numbers. With a larger attendance we can expect still better school work. We will be able to maintain schools for longer terms than at present, although we already average about eight months of school in each year. Our apportionment of school money will increase in the same ratio of our enrollment, making it possible to pay larger salaries to our teachers, thereby securing the best instructors. Our new neighbors will swell the attendance at church and sabbath-school. These two institutions will increase in numbers. We are vitally interested in the work of the sabbath-school. Mower county is awake to the necessity of furnishing moral training to the rising generation. We append the following list of schools, with the names and address of each superintendent, so far as we have been able to learn the same. Our friends in the east, who have a predilection for any particular denomination, and who would prefer to be settled near the church people of their choice, can address the ladies and gentlemen

named below for further information. They will take pleasure in accommodating any who have a desire to know more about each particular section.

Denomination of School.	Superintendent.	Address.
Union	G. W. Emery	Lansing.
Lutheran		Lansing.
Union	J. G. Vaughan	Lansing.
Methodist	O. Harrington	Lansing.
Methodist	R. O. Hall	Austin.
Congregational	H. W. Page	Austin.
Baptist	O. Allen	Austin.
Third Ward Union	F. A. Engle	Austin.
Lutheran	M. Freezer	Austin.
Universalist	W. T. Wilkins	Austin.
Episcopal	R. Griffith	Austin.
Catholic		Austin.
Cedar City Methodist	Evan Watkins	Austin.
Union	F. P. McBride	Austin.
Union	J. I. Dinsmore	Austin.
Union	S. Summy	Austin.
Union	C. F. Hughson	Lyle.
Lutheran	Knut Knutson	Lyle.
Union	M. St. John	Lyle.
Lutheran	Rev Mr. Eggen	Lyle.
Union	Fred Crow	Austin.
Congregational	D. McTavish	R. Creek
Adventist	M. B. Slocum	R. Creek.
Disciple	Dr. Beaulieu	B'nsd'le.
Union	A. Butterfield	B'nsd'le.
Union	E. G. Sachsce	Austin.
Union	G. L. Case	Austin.
Union	I. J. B. Wright	B'nsd'le.
German Lutheran		B'nsd'le.
Union	J. J. Hunt	B'nsd'le.
Union	W. P. Hoppin	Dexter.
German Lutheran	C. Christgau	Dexter.
Union	Mary C. Beck	Dexter.
Lutheran		Adams.
Catholic		Adams.
Union	A. Regua	G. M'dow
Methodist	H. Anderson	G. M'dow
Evangelical	P. V. Eppard	Racine.
Union	Rev. Mr. Ritter	Frankl'rd
Union	J. F. Johnson	S. Valley.
Union	H. A. Wales	LeRoy.
Presbyterian	W. B. Spencer	LeRoy.
Baptist	G. H. Swansey	LeRoy.

Many of the schools are held in the country adjacent to the respective villages, which will account for the frequent recurrence of the same address for different superintendents. We feel proud of the part we are taking in the Sabbath-school work of the day, and can confidently promise our friends who contemplate locating in our county, that they need not leave any of their religious privileges behind when they remove to Minnesota. All can be located in reach of church and Sabbath-school. Every denomination is

represented, and all join hands in promoting the interest of our Sunday-schools, while the utmost harmony prevails in the endeavor to procure the greatest good for the greatest number.

Another writer says:

"Mower county has the richest soil in the world. Mower county has the healthiest location of any county in the Union, and we back the statement with statistics. She has as pure water as any county in the world. Her soil will produce any crop that can be raised in any of the prairie States. Ours is the best dairy county in the world. We have the finest grass lands, the best potatoes and the most of them, the finest, fattest stock, the best schools and churches, the most magnificent court house, the smallest county debt, the emptiest jail, the best roads, markets, bridges, and everything that goes to make life a protracted picnic. We have the most law-abiding people and consequently the best of neighbors to offer you. Mower county never had a cyclone or a destructive hail storm and she don't want them. She has never been smitten with grasshoppers and never will be. Our mosquitoes are numerically weak and proverbially polite. Our summers are delightfully pleasant and our winters equable and dry. We have an abundance of timber, and many good quarries of stone.

Now, our friend, if we thought it necessary to say more about the advantages of our southern latitude, soil, climate, water, etc., we could occupy as much more space and then leave many facts unsaid. But we will add that neither ourselves, nor our sisters, nor our cousins, nor our aunts, nor any

of their relations by marriage nor consanguinity have any land to sell. We have come to stay. But we want to see our county thoroughly developed. We want to see every acre of our prairies yield its share of the total production of the county. We want to see our schools and churches secure the advantages to be derived from a greater attendance, and we want you to enjoy the same advantages vouchsafed us. Therefore we shall welcome you to our county, believing it to be the best place for the man of muscle or means. Come and investigate. come while lands are cheap, as the price is constantly advancing. People are beginning to realize that the rush for government land, which has marked the past four years is a delusion and a snare. Come now before the market advances. A transformation has come upon the whole farming industry. Wheat culture has not been discarded, but along with it the other grains are now produced in abundance; cattle, sheep and hogs are raised in large numbers; fruit culture is receiving yearly more attention; and dairying promises to become the most prosperous business in the State. Many observers report that never before have they seen such universal comfort as prevails in all those parts of Minnesota where the new system has been fairly inaugurated. It is only the sign and promise of what awaits the tiller of these fruitful fields in the future. All industries are open to their occupants, and the failure of a single crop cannot bring distress, much less disaster. Those who fled after their fields refused to guarantee a certain return for wheat culture without intermission, simply have the same experience to go through with on any lands

upon which they may settle ; for the country that can be profitably devoted to one crop forever, has yet to be discovered. Meantime, those who succeeded them and courageously took up the experiment of mixed farming, are reaping the fruits of years of past labor, are settled within easy reach of the great markets, surrounded by all the comforts of life and the appliances of civilization, and are annually making a handsome return on a safe investment. Lands on which this can be done, and which are held at the prices we have shown to rule as the average, cannot be surpassed in cheapness by any others. It is true that to-day people are paying more for remote claims than would purchase them the title to a farm in the centre of all the business, social, educational and other advantages that an old community can boast. They are paying for the privilege of isolation, and offering willing backs to the heavy burdens of political and social organization. It is impossible that future settlers should not see this, and, like sensible people, take the best they can get for their money. We invite the attention of farmers everywhere to the broad fields of Minnesota waiting for the plow, and to her natural advantages, not surpassed by those of any State or territory of the Union."

In churches, schools, and newspapers, the three great educators of our race, Mower county is rich. We have, of all denominations twenty-six churches and fifty-two Sabbath schools. For educational purposes there were paid last year the sum of \$48,649.00. There are 121 organized school districts with an enrollment of 4,335 scholars. There are 135 teachers employed at

salaries ranging from \$28 to \$100 per month. The school property of the county is valued at \$103,069. The schools are systematically graded, being in session from eight to ten months in every year. Our school buildings are fitted up with all the appliances for comfort that can be devised, many of the structures being elegant in design, and very substantially built of stone and brick.

Transcending all her sister counties, Mower carries off the palm for healthfulness. Look at these figures and then express your opinion.

Population in 1880 (U. S. Census).....	16,799
Births in 1880.....	529
Deaths from all causes, 1880.....	184
Natural increase.....	345

Here we have in a total population of 17,328 only 184 deaths from all causes, or a death rate of only a little over one per cent. Think of that, ye denizens of fever smitten districts, and then think of this:

In 1881 the births in Mower county, as shown by the returns of our sworn officers, were 427, while the death-roll footed up only 173 from all causes. In 1882 our births were 426 against 178 deaths. In 1882 our population had increased to 20,000 by births and immigration, making our death-rate LESS THAN SEVEN-EIGHTHS OF ONE PER CENT. upon the total population for two years. Can another county in the United States present so good a showing? Compare the foregoing figures with the vital statistics of your own county, our eastern friend, and draw your own deductions. Think, too, that our death-roll embraces all who have died from accident. Many of the deaths were of persons who had heard of our wonderfully healthful climate, and who suffering from incurable

lung diseases had delayed their coming so long that their constitutions could not rally, even under the influence of our pure air and bright skies. Malaria, we have none. Chills and fever live here only in the memory of those who have fled from the stricken districts of Michigan, Illinois and Indiana, to escape its terrors, finding a harbor of refuge upon our elevated prairies. Epidemics are things we read about, but never experience. Stock enjoys the same immunity from disease accorded us, and the only wonder is that we do not become forgetful of the sufferings of our fellow citizens in less favored localities. But we don't. Mower county can go down as deep in her pockets, as the best, in the cause of charity, which reminds us that our friends, in the old homes of the east, would probably like to know what manner of men we are in this

WONDERFUL UTOPIA,

therefore we subjoin the following table :

Population in 1880.....	16,799
Native born.....	11,864
Foreign born.....	4,985
Male.....	8,795
Female.....	8,004

Our native born population is made up from the best families of the New England, Middle and Western States, cherishing the institutions of their fathers and striving to emulate their example. There is a happy blending of the business habits of the frugal New Englanders with the push and enterprise of their more occidental cousins, manifested in the character of the typical Minnesotian. He loves justice for its own sake, guarding with jealous eyes any intrusion upon the rights of his fellows as witnessed by the almost total annihilation of the James and

Younger brothers' band of desperadoes, which a few years since attempted the robbery of the bank in Northfield, when every citizen of the country resolved himself into a committee of one to destroy the assassins, and forsook his business until the resolution was accomplished.

Our foreign born population is made up from the best classes of Scandinavians, Germans, Bohemians, Irish and other nationalities. They are industrious, and honest, and cherish an abiding affection for the homes of their adoption. They readily fall into line and keep pace with the steady march of improvement which characterizes the time. We feel that our general standard of morality and patriotism is not lowered by their residence among us, and they cordially co-operate with their neighbors in any enterprise that will advance the interests of our county, or the welfare of the community. We are all Americans together. Our patriotism is measured by our obedience to the laws, and we refer to our empty jails as the most eloquent testimonials to the general character of our citizens.

Now regarding Mower county in particular, we have to state these additional facts. There are 225,000 acres of splendid lands yet untouched by the plow. They are easily brought under cultivation because of their prairie characteristics. A man can open up a prairie farm of 160 acres in less time than he can ten of woodland, and with less labor. Should he desire to engage in stock-raising it is unnecessary even to plow his lands. Our natural meadows can not be excelled as pasture land, and our wild hay is as nutritious and as easily handled as the tame varieties. \$250 will fence 80 acres of our

wild lands. Eighty acres of average wild land will furnish fine pasturage for 30 or 40 cows, and the cream product from these cows alone will net you from \$700 to \$800 per annum, and your milk raise forty pigs with very little extra feed. At this writing hogs sell at \$5.75 per cwt. gross weight, and very lately the price was \$6.50 on foot. So you see, our friends, if you desire to go into stock-raising, you can bring down two birds with one stone, and both of them fat ones.

Besides these sources of profit you have the natural increase of your herds. What do you think of it? The greatest surprise awaits you when we tell you that these lands can be bought at prices ranging from six to twelve dollars per acre.

Every acre is just as we represent it. The land is as good as that in the farms that have already been opened, just as susceptible of tillage, and not one whit behind in quality. You have the advantage of good soil, splendid water, equable climate and ready markets, your schools, churches, roads, railroads, markets, newspapers, and local organizations have preceded you. And these things are not a mortgage on your prospective operations. They are paid for.

Can you afford to go to the frontier away from all the comforts that make life desirable, plant yourself upon government land, live five years upon it, drink alkali water, twist hay, burn hay, (and we almost say) curse hay, freeze to death seven months in the year, and fight mosquitoes, grasshoppers and potato bugs for the balance, and then get a quitclaim deed from Uncle Sam for the improvement you have made? Can you afford to bring order out of chaos, build

your roads, bridges, churches, school-houses \$20 per acre for farm lands in the most fertile and thickly settled portions of the state. Turning to the other extreme, and looking for lands which may fairly compare in cost with those offered in the western territories, we may take an assessed valuation of less than \$3 per acre, to represent a selling price of not more than \$5 per acre. Omitting from the calculation the counties which contain large quantities of pine lands, and including only those which are strictly agricultural, we find that in six entire counties the average price of private lands falls below that figure. When the limit is raised to an assessed value of less than \$5 an acre, which compares fairly with prices that have to be paid in a new country, after the additional expense of beginning life there, is reckoned in, we find that the land of fifty counties of Minnesota will come under this classification when the value of improvements is excluded, and thirty-two remain when improvements added. The total acreage of improved lands in the state which are assessed at less than \$5 per acre, and could therefore be bought at less than \$10 per acre, is 1,365,073. The amount of unimproved land within the same limits is 6,190,403 acres. Farms beautifully located and already cultivated for many years can be bought at this figure. It is probably not too sweeping a general statement to say that, outside of incorporated towns and villages and of lands enjoying some exceptional advantage of location, the soil of Minnesota suited for agricultural pursuits is held at from \$5 to \$25 per acre, with some few exceptions going beyond the latter figures.

## Principal Farm Products of Mower County for 1884.

TOWNSHIPS	WHEAT.	CORN.	OATS.	BARLEY.	POTAT'S.	BEANS.	FLAX.	TAME HAY.	BUCKWHEAT
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Tons.	No. of Acres.
LeRoy .....	1800	1800	2500	700	120	25	50	700	25
Lodi .....	1700	1900	2100	650	85	10	150	1500	40
Adams ..	1100	1000	1400	500	55	8	25	1000	10
Nevada ..	1800	1500	2500	600	100	15	175	1250	25
Lyle .....	1000	1500	2100	650	90	20	100	1150	30
Austin .....	1500	2850	2500	1400	175	25	30	1500	40
Windom .....	1400	2500	2100	1250	125	10	75	1250	30
Marshall .....	1400	1000	1800	1200	120	5	100	1000	40
Clayton .....	400	500	1000	600	80	10	250	1500	50
Bennington .....	550	650	1200	650	100	8	275	1200	25
Frankford ..	1500	1250	2500	650	110	15	150	1600	45
Grand Meadow .....	1606	2200	1100	1000	115	10	110	2800	60
Dexter .....	800	650	1100	700	75	20	120	360	40
Red Rock .....	1200	1400	1800	1100	110	25	20	1300	40
Lansing .....	1400	2100	1300	1500	125	5	100	1250	30
Udolpho .....	1200	1600	2150	1000	110	10	40	1050	40
Waltham .....	1300	1350	2000	650	300	12	10	800	30
Sargeant .....	1120	900	1450	1100	90	5	70	1200	40
Pleasant Valley .....	1000	1100	1900	950	85	5	50	1000	20
Racine .....	1250	1600	2250	1500	150	15	10	1550	40
Total .....	25026	27450	38650	18375	2120	258	1910	24960	700

## Principal Farm Products of Mower County for 1884---Continued.

TOWNSHIPS.	CATTLE.	HORSES.	HOGS.	SHEEP.	ML'H COWS	APPLE TR'S.	FOREST TR'S	CHEESE FACTORI'S	FARMS.
	Under three years old.	Over three years old.	Of all ages.	Number.	Number.	Number growing.	Whole Number of Acres Planted.	Number.	Whole No. of Farms.
LeRoy.....	105	183	815	520	300	2450	37		110
Lodi.....	168	200	276	1620	316	750	83	1	100
Adams.....	300	150	1000	11	550	75	50		75
Nevada.....	410	5203	850	613	430	1200	70		65
Lyle.....	260	5156	500	145	270	1150	65		100
Austin.....	490	1370	1310	395	490	3900	108		90
Windom.....	107	155	475	246	470	2100	100		107
Marshall.....	60	1110	200	350	240	300	75		101
Clayton.....	115	90	610	20	117	40	30		76
Bennington.....	111	95	900	22	185	1000	10		70
Frankford.....	250	160	550	360	470	850	60		50
Grand Meadow.....	150	160	300	50	275	1000	75		70
Dexter.....	100	90	700	20	101	250	80		85
Red Rock.....	175	175	600	190	300	1150	85		100
Lansing.....	180	190	400	300	400	1275	100	1	78
Udolpho.....	250	275	1116	200	380	1200	95		100
Waltham.....	458	1270	960	20	283	1050	520		100
Sargeant.....	405	185	298	15	275	250	16		95
Pleasant Valley.....	400	310	675	.....	320	850	20		90
Racine.....	310	2310	5240	455	550	1150	80		66
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>4811</b>	<b>3784</b>	<b>14157</b>	<b>5579</b>	<b>6731</b>	<b>21090</b>	<b>1758</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1728</b>

MOWER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL, HORTICULTURAL AND MECHANICS' SOCIETY.

On the 3d of September, 1863, the board of county commissioners, consisting of R. C. Heath, Alanson Beach and G. T. Angell, caused the following notice and call to be published:

"We, the undersigned, members of the board of county commissioners in and for the county of Mower, Minnesota, desiring that every means possible should be made for improvement in agriculture, and believing that the time has come for the permanent establishment of an Agricultural Society in our county, by which new incentives will be incited in the minds of farmers and those desiring the rapid development of the country. We therefore recommend the formation of an Agricultural Society and take upon ourselves the responsibility of calling a meeting of all those interested in such an institution to meet in Austin on the 22d of September, 1863, to consider the propriety and necessity of forming an Agricultural Society. It is earnestly requested that there shall be as large an attendance as possible, so that as great an interest can be created."

Agreeable to this notice a number of prominent citizens of the county met at the postoffice in Austin on the 22d of September, 1863. The meeting was called to order by B. F. Jones, upon whose motion J. P. Jones, of Nevada township, was elected chairman. B. F. Jones was elected secretary.

After some discussion Ormanzo Allen, Oliver Somers and Sylvester Smith were appointed a committee to draft a constitution for the government of the society. The con-

stitution which they reported was adopted. Briefly stated, it embraced the following points: "That the name of the society should be the Mower County Agricultural, Horticultural and Mechanics' Society; its object to encourage agriculture, horticulture and mechanical arts; the officers to be a president, three vice presidents, one from each commissioner district; recording and corresponding secretaries, a treasurer and one director from each organized township in the county, all to be elected at the annual meeting each year; that any person who should subscribe to the constitution and pay \$1.00 should be entitled to membership for one year, and that \$10 should pay for a life membership.

The following gentlemen were elected first officers of the society: President, Hon. Robert Lyle; Vice-Presidents, John M. Morrell, Geo. N. Conkey and John M. Wycokoff from the first, second and third districts respectively; Recording Secretary, B. F. Jones; Corresponding Secretary, Solomon Snow; Directors—Austin, V. P. Lewis; Lyle, S. R. Hughson; Windom, Alonzo Fairbanks; Red Rock, A. D. Brown; Udolpho, Charles Stimson; Nevada, J. P. Jones; Lansing, J. J. Rosenberg; Pleasant Valley, Robert Reed; Grand Meadow, Col. B. F. Langworthy; Racine, Addison Harris; Frankford, N. Goodsell; Bennington, Edwin Angell; Adams, Mathew Rooney; LeRoy, Daniel Caswell. Each director was appointed a committee to solicit members for the society.

This society held its first fair at the village of Lansing during the second week of October, 1864. It was an acknowledged success.

The various awarding committees at this fair were as follows :

1st—Herman Warner, Austin ; James Clark, Lansing ; and J. N. Frisby, of Moscow, Freeborn county.

2d—N. S. Dorwin, Lansing ; Matthew Rooney, Adams, and J. P. Jones, Nevada.

3d—Andrew D. Brown, Red Rock ; C. N. Stimson, Udolpho ; Joseph Bourgard, Austin.

4th—E. T. Hathaway, Freeborn county ; N. S. Goodsell, Frankford, and William Buck, Racine.

5th—Benjamin Carll, Lansing ; Ole Thulison, Moscow, and David Oliver, Austin.

6th—W. A. Strong, Lyle ; C. Fenton, Austin ; C. Coates, Red Rock.

7th—J. A. Asher, London, Freeborn county ; J. K. Strever, Austin ; P. Rooney, Adams.

8th—A. E. Peck, Pleasant Valley ; B. F. Langworthy, Grand Meadow ; Adam St. John, Lyle.

9th—P. G. Lamoreaux, Lansing ; E. F. Armstrong, Lansing, and J. M. Vandergrift, Austin.

10th—G. W. Conkey, Windom ; Zachariah Carll, Lansing, and J. N. Mason, LeRoy.

11th—C. J. Felch, Racine, and V. P. Lewis, Austin.

12th—Wm. Cooper, Bennington ; Charles Lamb, Frankford ; H. H. Vail, Windom.

13th—A. B. Vaughan, Lansing ; James Cook, Lansing, and D. Gates, Freeborn county.

14—Sylvester Smith, Austin ; Jonathan Stewart, Racine ; J. D. Cowles, LeRoy.

15th—R. C. Heath, Red Rock ; Oliver Somers, Austin ; J. Potter, Lansing.

16th—Mrs. C. J. Shortt, Austin ; Mrs. P. D. Vaughan, Lansing ; Mrs. J. I. Clark, Austin.

17th—Mrs. Ormanzo Allen, Austin ; Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, Grand Meadow ; Mrs. N. Brownson, Windom.

18—Mrs. L. L. Lord, Austin ; Mrs. C. J. Stimson, Red Rock ; Mrs. D. B. Sprague, Lansing.

19th—C. C. Crane and wife, Austin ; R. Soule and wife, Lansing ; L. Hathaway and wife, Austin.

20th—S. Snow, Mr. Dodge, Austin ; J. M. Wyckoff, LeRoy.

21st—William Thisselle, Lansing ; J. D. Cowles, LeRoy ; John Rowley, Pleasant Valley.

22nd—A. Petta, Red Rock ; A. Clough, Lansing ; E. McKee, LeRoy.

23rd—H. Housman, Austin ; D. Welles, Lansing ; A. Beach, Lyle.

24th—S. Snow, Austin ; A. B. Vaughan, Lansing ; William Litchfield, Lansing,

25th—J. M. Lewis, Austin ; H. H. Shook, Red Rock ; E. C. Blakely, Pleasant Valley.

26th—George B. Hayes, Austin ; J. Carll, Lansing ; T. Allred, Red Rock.

27th—H. I. Parker, Austin ; J. A. Gregg, Nevada ; H. Barber, Pleasant Valley.

28th—Mrs. Ormanzo Allen, Austin ; Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, Grand Meadow ; Mrs. Charles Lamb, Frankford.

29th—F. A. Carll, Udolpho ; Geo. Wood, Lansing ; A. B. Vaughan, Lansing.

30th—D. B. Johnson, Austin ; Mr. Stewart, Red Rock, and H. Hawley, Lansing.

31st—D. B. Johnson, Austin ; James Clark, Lansing ; G. Fryer, Frankford.

32nd—G. M. Cameron, Austin ; C. F.

Hardy, Red Rock ; S. Bostwick, Frankford.  
33rd—John Merrill, Windom ; William Woodson, Austin ; Orin Hill, Red Rock.

#### MOWER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

During the year 1868, the project of organizing a second agricultural society was agitated. A call was published during the summer requesting a meeting of those interested on July 31, 1868. Pursuant to this call a number of prominent citizens met at the brick school house in Austin. J. L. Davidson was chosen chairman, and Lyman A. Sherwood, secretary of the meeting. A committee was appointed, consisting of C. H. Davidson, Capt. A. S. Everest, G. G. Clemmer, and Thomas Gibson, to draft a constitution and by-laws. They reported a constitution, which was adopted, embracing the following provisions: "That the society shall be known as the 'Mower County Agricultural Society;' its object the promotion of agriculture, horticulture, stock raising, manufactures and the mechanical arts; the officers shall be a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and an executive committee of one member from each organized township in the county; that any resident of the county could become a member by paying \$1.00 annually.

The following were the first officers elected: President, Andrew D. Brown; Secretary, E. C. Door; Treasurer, S. Snow; Vice-Presidents, Sylvester Smith, Austin City; Abe S. Lott, Austin township; Alanson Beach, Lyle; Gunder Halverson, Nevada; Matthew Rooney, Adams; W. B. Spencer, LeRoy; G. T. Angell, Bennington; D. P. Putney, Frankford; W. F. Harris, Racine; B. F.

Langworthy, Grand Meadow; Richard Hopkin, Pleasant Valley; James H. Stewart, Red Rock; A. B. Vaughan, Lansing; Thomas Richardson, Udolpho; A. P. Lounsberry, Waltham; John Thompson, Windom. Executive Committee—V. P. Lewis, chairman; W. L. Austin, Austin; Thomas Gibson, Lansing; Orlando Wilder, Lyle; Alanson Wright, Windom; J. M. Wyckoff, LeRoy; Harvey Anderson, Red Rock; D. Chandler, Austin; J. W. Gregg, Nevada; H. M. Irgens, Adams; Capt. J. S. McKnight, Bennington; Chas. Lamb, Frankford; Jonathan Stewart, Racine; O. W. Case, Grand Meadow; Ben. Carll, Udolpho; H. Edward, Waltham.

This society held its first fair on the 14th and 15th days of October, 1868. Owing to the short time the society had for preparation, the bad state of the weather, and the exciting political times, it was feared the fair would be an entire failure. But on the morning of opening the clouds cleared away and the officers prepared temporary grounds on the public square. Before night some splendid cattle were brought to the ground. Horses, hogs, agricultural machinery, wagons, buggies, and other products were brought out and the promise was good. In speaking of the fair the *Democrat* said: "The fair may be considered as a perfect success. The fact was plainly demonstrated that we can have one of the best fairs in Mower county next season in the State. Success will attend the Mower county Agricultural Society."

#### THE PREMIUMS AWARDED.

The following is a list of the parties to whom premiums were awarded by the Agricultural Society at their first fair. It is

somewhat lengthy, yet it is believed the interest which will attach to it makes it well worthy of space :

DIVISION A.—CLASS I.

A. S. Lott, first premium on brood mare and colt.....	\$5 00
Same, on sucking colt.....	2 00
W. T. Mandeville, second premium sucking colt.....	Dip.
John Hay, 1st premium 2-year old colt...	3 00
Francis Weller, 2d premium 2-year old colt.....	Dip.
Jacob Fleck, 1st premium 3-year old stallion.....	4 00
H. E. Allen, 1st premium 1-year old colt.	2 00
Z. Carll, 2d premium 1-year old colt.....	Dip.
J. M. Vandegrift, 1st premium 3-year old mare colt.....	3 00
Geo. W. Bishop, 2d premium on same...	Dip.
A. Humes, 1st premium on best stallion..	5 00
H. H. Vail, 2d premium stallion.....	Dip.

CLASS II.

John Furlong, 1st premium best saddle horse.....	\$2 00
V. P. Lewis, 2d premium saddle horse...	Dip.
S. Smith, 1st premium best draught horse.....	5 00
S. Snow, 2d premium draught horse.....	Dip.
John Furlong, 1st premium best carriage horses.....	5 00
A. Fleck, 2d premium carriage horses.....	Dip.

DIVISION B.—CLASS I.

M. C. Potter, 1st premium best blooded cow.....	\$5 00
Same, 1st premium best blooded yearling bull.....	2 00
Same, 1st premium best blooded heifer..	2 00
Same, 1st premium best calf.....	2 00
A. S. Lott, 1st premium best blooded bull	5 00
Patrick O'Maley, 1st premium best yoke working oxen.....	5 00

CLASS II.

Solomon Snow, 1st premium native cow..	\$5 00
Adam St. John, 1st premium graded cow.....	5 00
Wm. A. Crane, 1st premium 2-year old native heifer.....	2 00
Solomon Snow, 1st premium 2-year old native steer.....	2 00
Same, 2d premium 2-year old native steer.....	Dip.

DIVISION C.—CLASS I.

Adam St. John, 1st premium best fine wool lambs.....	\$2 00
Same, 1st premium yearling ewes.....	2 00

DIVISION D.—CLASS I.

M. C. Potter, 1st premium best white Yorkshire boar.....	\$5 00
Same, 1st premium best white Yorkshire sow.....	3 00
Ben Ayres, 1st premium Suffolk sow.....	3 00
Same, 2d premium Suffolk sow.....	Dip.
M. C. Potter, 1st premium Yorkshire pigs.....	2 00

DIVISION E.—CLASS I.

W. A. Crane, 1st premium Poland hens..	\$1 00
Geo. Hahn, 2d premium Bantam hens...	Dip.
W. A. Crane, 1st premium turkeys.....	1 00
Jno M. Vandegrift, 1st premium ducks...	1 00

DIVISION F.—CLASS I.

W. I. Brown, 1st premium double wagon	\$2 00
Bates Bros., 2nd premium double wagon	Dip.
W. I. Brown, 1st premium Democrat wagon.....	2 00
W. W. Brownson, 1st premium on corn sheller and other castings.....	1 00
Hunt & Johnson, 1st premium crossing plow.....	2 00
W. Allen, 1st premium fanning mill.....	1 00
Wm. Truesdell, 1st premium washing machine.....	1 00
G. H. Azure, 1st premium horse rake....	1 00

CLASS II.

Hoskins & Fernald, 1st premium specimen cabinet ware.....	2 00
Same, 1st premium best set chairs.....	1 00
Same, carved work.....	Dip.
Bates Bros., first premium best single buggy.....	3 00
W. I. Brown, first premium double buggy.....	3 00

DIVISION J.—CLASS I.

Mrs. David Gates, 1st premium best butter.....	\$ 3 00
Mrs. J. P. Jones, 2d premium butter.....	Dip.

DIVISION H.—CLASS II.

W. F. Hunt, choicest variety of cultivated apples.....	\$ 1 00
W. A. Crane, 1st premium Hubbard squash.....	50
Somers Lewis, best lot red peppers.....	Dip.
J. P. Jones, 1st premium best potatoes...	50
A. Gemmel, 2d premium, potatoes.....	Dip.
J. M. Vandegrift, 1st premium on parsnips.....	50

DIVISION I —CLASS I.

E. L. Fuller, 1st premium best bushel spring wheat.....	\$ 1 00
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Same, 1st premium best bushel barley...	1 00
D. Gates, 1st premium best bushel corn..	1 00
M. C. Potter, 1st premium King Phillip corn.....	1 00
C. H. Huntington, 2d premium bushel corn.....	Dip.
A. St. John, 1st premium bushel white beans.....	1 00

## DIVISION J.—CLASS III.

Mrs. D. Gates, 1st premium best currant jelly.....	50
Mrs. C. Fenton, 1st premium tomato catsup.....	50
Mrs. R. J. Rankin, 1st premium best canned peaches.....	50
Mrs. D. Gates, 1st premium grape wine	1 00
Mrs. H. M. Allen, 1st premium wild plum jelly.....	50
Mrs. D. Gates, 1st premium canned tomatoes.....	60
Same, 1st premium Conrad grape wine...	50
Mrs. Vosburg, 1st premium white currants.....	50
Mrs. D. Gates, 1st premium best red currants.....	50
E. D. Hudson, artificial teeth.....	Dip.
H. A. Holmes, Howe sewing machine....	Dip.
R. J. Rankin, improved school desks....	Dip.
Mrs. N. P. Austin, 1st best painting in oil.....	2 00
Same, 2d premium.....	Dip.
Mrs. M. C. Potter, 1st premium best painting in water colors.....	2 00
Mrs. J. P. Jones, 2d premium painting in water colors.....	Dip.
R. I. Smith, 1st premium on photographs and ambrotypes.....	2 00
Mrs. M. C. Potter, 1st premium best ornamental needle work.....	1 00
Ella Revoid, 1st premium sewing, under 15 years of age.....	50
Mary Atherton, 1st premium crochet shawl.....	1 00
Mrs. W. H. Sutton, 1st embroidery, worsted, etc.....	50
Mrs. M. C. Potter, 2d premium on tidy..	Dip.
Mrs. Vosburg, 1st premium best lamp and lamp stand mats.....	50
Mrs. Vosburg, 2d premium hair flowers..	Dip.
Mrs. M. C. Potter, 1st premium pelles work.....	50
Miss A. Knox, 1st premium on head work, moss and shell crochet work...	1 00
Mrs. N. P. Austin, two cornucopias.....	Dip.
R. I. Smith, colored photograph.....	Dip.
Mrs. Vosburg, worsted flowers.....	Dip.
Mrs. T. J. Otis, 1st premium best hair flowers.....	50
Mrs. Conger, 1st premium best crochet spread.....	1 00
Mrs. H. W. Sutton, crochet chemise yoke.....	Dip.

Miss Knox, 1st premium floral wreath...	1 00
Miss J. M. Knox, 1st premium flower, bead and crochet work.....	50
Mrs. Conger, 1st premium on cone frame	50
Mrs. Conger, 2d premium on cone box...	Dip.
Mrs. D. Gates, 1st premium patchwork quilt.....	50
Mrs. J. P. Jones, 1st premium tatting collars.....	50
Mrs. Vosburg, rag carpet.....	Dip.
Mrs. Otis, lamp mat.....	Dip.
Mrs. N. P. Austin, knit baby shirt.....	Dip.
Mrs. N. P. Austin, worsted frame.....	Dip.

## THE MOWER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This society is composed of the leading farmers and business men of the county. Many of the best strains of blooded stock have been introduced. Our short-horns owe their presence to a great extent to the liberal policies of our county and state agricultural associations. Taken as a whole the farm stock of our county is unexcelled even in the famous "blue grass" regions of Kentucky, for, be it remembered, our prairie and tame grasses, and our generous supply of pure water, will put more fat on an animal's ribs in a given length of time, than can be accomplished in any southern latitude. Hardly a farmer in the county but is alive to the fact that the introduction of blooded animals is the surest road to remunerative returns. Every farmer is annually raising the grade of his horses, cattle and hogs. All praise is due to the originators of the agricultural societies of our State. With their advent, came advanced thought and action upon the part of the farmers. The latter were yearly brought together in friendly competition for the liberal premiums offered, and gradually acquired that commendable pride that every farmer should take in good stock. The result is the good showing we make every year at our county fairs, and the elevated

standard of our ideal stock farms. Friends of the east, meet with us next fall and feast your eyes upon the splendid display we shall make at the annual fair. The following officers of the association will take every measure to make your visit pleasant, and in each you will find a pleasant, courteous gentleman, thoroughly imbued with the enterprising spirit of our people, and thoroughly confident of our county's future prosperity.

## OFFICERS FOR 1883.

Hon. John Frank, President.  
Thos. Gibson, Vice President.  
W. T. Wilkins, Treasurer.  
G. M. Fish, Jr., Secretary.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

J. Solner,	H. S. Smith,
R. O. Hall,	A. Friedrich.
E. C. Dorr,	D. B. Smith,
Ira Jones,	M. M. Trowbridge,
W. H. Merrick.	

## THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

To promote the welfare, and guard the interests of our farmers, the alliance was formed by the progressive men of the county. The membership is confined strictly to farmers. The meetings are held monthly at Austin. The objects and aims of the society are a broader knowledge of agriculture, a higher education of farmers' sons and daughters, and a healthy regulation of monopoly. At their meetings, scientific papers are read and discussed, ideas exchanged and mutual confidence strengthened. The alliance is doing a good work, and we wish it success. Now our friends, all these things which we have ventilated in this open letter concern you, therefore we have given them. We want you to see Mower county as it is.

We have not attempted to paint our advantages in glowing colors, for the purpose of personal profit. We have based our letter on facts, neither adding to nor detracting from their actuality. Our letter like our county, stands on its merits. Both court the closest analysis. We have not said all that could be said in favor of our county, but we have said enough to convince our eastern friends that no other county combines greater natural, social and pecuniary advantages.—  
*From the Local Press.*

G. W. Grimshaw, was born in Oneida county, New York, January 10, 1833. When three years old, removed with his parents to Jefferson county, where he grew to manhood and receiving his education in the common schools and at the seminary at Adams during the fall and winter, working on the farm through the summer. Mr. Grimshaw was married August 15, 1858, to Lorena E. Hanson. She was born in Jefferson county, New York, June 10, 1828. After becoming of age, Mr. Grimshaw was engaged as overseer of farms in Jefferson county, until 1858, when taking the advice of Horace Greeley, came west to Waupacca county, Wisconsin, remaining through the winter, and in the spring (1856) came to Minnesota, visiting Winona, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and to Wright county, after which he returned to Winona, when he with six young men from New York, took claims, being at that time a wilderness, their first neighbors, the red men of the forest. The post office of Aurora, was established, through their influence, six weeks after their arrival. Mr. Grimshaw remained on his claim until the fall of 1857, when he returned to New York, at which time he was

married, the next August, as above stated. After remaining a few weeks Mr. Grimshaw, with his wife, started for their new home in Minnesota, coming from Milwaukee, by team. He lived on his first claim until the spring of 1867, when he sold out and bought the farm on which he now resides in section 15, in Lansing township. In 1884 he had 160 acres under a good state of cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Grimshaw are members of the Methodist Church at Austin. Mr. Grimshaw, in politics, is a staunch Republican, and while

a resident of Steele county, was a member of the board of supervisors, and was also clerk of his town two years. Since coming to Mower county, has held local offices, and on the organization of the Mower County Agricultural Society, was elected President two terms in succession, which position he still holds. Mr. Grimshaw is also president of the Farmer's Alliance, which is in a very prosperous condition. Mr. and Mrs. Grimshaw are parents of two children, Ida M., Rose E.

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## CHAPTER XII.

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### RAILROADS.

No ten internal improvements combined could possibly do as much toward the development of a country as its railroads. The printing press, the railway and the telegraph wire combined, certainly move the world, as Archimedes little dreamed it could be moved. Until within a few years new countries were required to be opened up by the hardy pioneers and their agricultural and mineral resources well developed before the capitalist could be induced to invest his means in the building of a railroad. But now railroads go on in advance of civilization and development, and open up the highway over which is transported the great multitude of emigrants, who annually make settlement in the vast and ever changing west. Over this steel pathway, (four strands of which link the Atlantic and Pacific

oceans,) goes the vast tonnage of freight, including lumber, coal, wood and farm machinery, which a score of years ago had to be conveyed by horses and oxen. By this gigantic system of transportation the farmers of the wild bleak prairies of Minnesota, Iowa and Dakota are made near neighbors, so to speak, with the far-away forest of the north and east, and the coal mines of the south.

The first agitation of the building of a railroad in Mower county was the building of a road by the Northwestern Railway company in the year 1854, which company got a land grant of six townships through the center of the county. This company failing to comply with the provisions of the grant, the land was sold out to speculators; then came the Cedar Valley railroad, whose grade was made almost continuous the whole of the county,

in the year of 1858, and then came that long, weary waiting for nine tiresome years, when the road was finally built in connection with the McGregor Western railroad, which McGregor road was gotten here mainly through the hard toil of 4 citizens of Austin, one has passed beyond the river, two reside in distant states, and one still remains in Austin.

Then was built the Southern Minnesota railroad on the identical line on which they had filed their land grant 10 years before. Then the branch from Austin to Mason City; the former in 1868 and the latter in 1869 giving Mower county 86 miles of railroad.

Perhaps no better method of giving a comprehensive history of the preliminary surveys and final construction of the various lines of railway which traverse Mower county, than to extract from the local press such items as were written at the time in which these things occurred; This, together with such additional facts as can be ascertained by the historian, will serve to show the reader what part the citizens of this county have taken from the earliest date to the present time, in securing these steel tracked highways, which have ever been potent factors in the development of the county.

“AUSTIN KILT AGAIN.”

Under this heading, on May 18, 1869, the *Democrat* presents the following article: “No little excitement has been occasioned among our citizens and farmer friends between this place and Lansing by the fact that a stranger named Dan. Pratt has purchased a number of farms on the line of the M. & St. P. R. R., about half way between this place and Lansing, and paid fabulous prices for them. When the gentlemen came to receive pay for their

farms, on yesterday, it was found that the money had been deposited in the First National Bank for Mr. Pratt by Mr. Wyckoff of the S. M. R. R. Five farms were purchased in a body, and prices were paid as follows: John S. Lacy, \$25 per acre; John Morrill, \$52; Mrs. Dixon, 23; Mr. Wells, \$31.25; Daniel Butts, \$38.75. The farms all lay in a body, in Lansing township, near where the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad crosses the Cedar river. It is very strongly suspicioned that Mr. Pratt is in the confidence of the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company, and that this is the place where the two roads will cross. What adds strength to the suspicion is the fact that Mr. Pratt played things mighty “fine,” so as not to excite the rural gentlemen, until he had secured all the lands he wanted. Already in the minds of some, a town has sprung up there, in comparison to which Chicago is but a village. And of course Austin is “kilt.” We further learn that the contract for grading 40 miles of the road west the present season, has been let to Mr. Allen, formerly agent for J. C. Burbank & Co.’s stage line, and that work will be immediately commenced ten miles west of this place.”

In its issue of January 26, 1869, under the head of “Railroadical,” the *Austin Democrat* said: “Hon. E. H. Williams, of Clayton county, Iowa, accompanied by a competent engineer, J. E. Ainsworth, passed through this place a short time since, looking up a route for a railroad which it is intended shall leave the Dubuque & McGregor Road at the mouth of Turkey river, and follow up that stream to a point near Clermont in Fayette county, then diverge a little to the south,

leaving the Turkey and passing nearly straight through Fayette county, then through the northern portion of Chickasaw county, touching the corner of Howard, and then crossing the State line a little east of St. Ansgar, in Mitchell county, thence up the Cedar river to Austin, and so on straight through to Mankato. Judge Williams speaks very favorably of the route, and says that the grade would be less than upon any other route approaching the Mississippi river in Iowa. It is believed that the construction of this road would greatly shorten the distance to be traversed, in order to get to the east by all Southern Minnesota and Northern Iowa. We know there is no more productive or richer country in natural resources anywhere than the section through which it is intended this road shall run.

There is still another road approaching Austin, and which we believe will some day be completed. It is a direct line from St. Louis to St. Paul. We believe it is the intention to use the Minnesota Central and the North Missouri Road, building a road straight through Central Iowa, and connecting the two. During the past two years over one hundred miles of this road has been finished or graded in Iowa, leaving but about one hundred miles more to be constructed, when St. Paul and St. Louis will be connected by an almost air line road; and the work is now being crowded forward rapidly. This will make the fifth railroad to Austin, when all the contemplated roads are finished. Let them come, we say, Austin can stand it. We would advise the little towns around that want railroads so bad, to move into Austin, and then they will be sure of them."

On the 23d of April, 1869, a large and interesting meeting of the citizens of Austin and vicinity was held at the court house to consider the proposition which the Southern Minnesota Railroad company had made, and to see what the people of Austin would do for the company, provided it would build its road to that place, and locate the depot, the engine house, etc., here. D. B. Johnson, Esq., called the meeting to order, and on motion was appointed chairman. On motion W. C. Snow was chosen secretary. The chairman stated the object of the meeting and made some very sound remarks on the subject of railroads and Austin's peculiar advantages. Different gentlemen were called upon and expressed their views briefly. A committee consisting of the mayor and council, was appointed to wait upon Col. T. R. Brayden, representative of the S. M. R. R. Co., who was understood to be in town, and request him to favor the meeting with some explanation as to the purposes and desires of the railroad company. Col. Brayden appeared and was introduced to the audience, and stated substantially that the railroad company which he represented had decided to commence at some point on the Milwaukee and St. Paul road, and build forty miles of road west the coming season, and that though it would cost them more to cross the Cedar river at Austin than either above or below, they desired to cross at this place; that the company were willing to make some sacrifice to come here, but not too much, and thought that the people of Austin could well afford to bear a portion of the extra cost of coming here. The railroad company wanted the right of way through or

around our town, depot grounds and bonds of the city to the amount of \$40,000, bearing seven per cent. interest, and running 20 or 30 years; that the question to be considered was whether we would have the railroad here or not. Remarks were made by a number of gentlemen and doubts were expressed as to whether the corporation could legally issue bonds to the railroad company. On motion a committee of three, consisting of B. J. Van Valkenburgh, A. S. Everest and Ormanzo Allen was appointed to examine the law with regard to issuing bonds, and to inquire into the cost of the right of way, and report at the meeting to be held on the 1st of May, 1869.

In commenting upon the result of this meeting the *Democrat* in its issue of April 27, 1869, said:

"The subject of railroads is of vital importance to the people of Austin. We are aware that there is a belief, or rather a feeling among a portion of our citizens, that as soon as the road goes west from this place it will kill the town. There is no doubt but that it would cut off some of the local trade, but that is bound to be done sooner or later, and would not the benefits accruing from such a road greatly outweigh the damages. We believe the proposition of Col. Braydon was favorably received by our citizens. Certainly the subject deserves thorough and candid consideration, which we hope it will receive by every person interested. It is a fact that times are hard, money scarce, so that just at present our people do not feel much like voting a tax upon themselves of \$2,800 per year, to be paid as interest to the railroad company, but will it not pay to do

so is the question. Something can be done toward giving the right of way and depot grounds, certainly. Will not the increase in the valuation of property more than trebly pay all the railroad company ask? Col. Braydon remarked to us that ten per cent. of the increase of the assessable value of the property on account of the roads would more than satisfy the railroad company. If we secure this road it will make Austin a junction, and it will be to the interest of other roads to make a junction here. Evidently if the citizens are disposed to, they can make Austin the junction of more roads than any other point within many miles of here, if not in the State. And it is clear to our mind that a junction of numerous roads here will, in the course of a few years, build up a large manufacturing city. And now is the time for action.

In accordance with the understanding when the former meeting adjourned, another railroad meeting was held on the 1st of May, 1869. D. B. Johnson again presided. The committee which had been appointed to ascertain whether the city had authority to issue bonds for railroad purposes, and to enquire into the cost of right of way through the city, made their report, which was in substance, that the city had no such authority to issue bonds under its charter, or to grant the right of way through the city. The report was accepted and the committee retained to inform the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company of the decision they had arrived at. The general feeling seemed to be against issuing the bonds or granting the request made by the railroad company, owing somewhat to a lack of confidence in the

company to do or carry out the programme as they agreed. Speeches were made by A. S. Everest, A. J. Burbank, John Cook and others, who seemed to favor the idea of giving railroads money to come to the town, but "nary" dollar to go away. A committee of three consisting of J. B. Yates, A. J. Burbank and P. G. Lamoreaux were appointed to attend the meeting of the directors of the Eldora Railroad Company, to be held at Mason City, on the 5th of May, 1869, and extend to them the usual courtesy to make Austin a point on the road.

At another meeting held later, a committee was appointed, consisting of Sylvester Smith, Cap. Day, Col. Chase and J. B. Yates to confer with the Southern Minnesota railroad company for the purpose of finding out upon what terms they would build by the way of Austin. This committee interviewed them several times, but the company seemed indifferent in regard to the matter, and finally told the committee that they had no proposition to make them.

Perhaps the true sequel of their spurning the offer made by the citizens of Austin, was on account of certain landed interests, which the company had in the meantime purchased at Ramsey, together with the fact that the construction agents (who had the choice of route, somewhat) desired to make the line as long as possible, as their work was done per mile.

With all these facts before the reader, it will be seen that Austin did all in her power, within the limits of prudence, to secure this road, and it is not her fault, but the greediness of the railroad company,

which caused the road to be built where it was.

On the 15th of May, 1869, the citizens of Red Rock township, held an election upon the subject of giving bonds of the township to the amount of \$25,000 to the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company. The vote stood 91 in favor of, and 4 against the proposition. On May, 18, 1869, the township of Waltham voted to issue railroad bonds.

On the 11th of May, 1869, a call was published requesting the citizens of Austin and vicinity "to meet at the court house May 14, 1869, to take into consideration the proper measures to be adopted to secure the junction of the Iowa Coal Region Railway Company with the M., St. P. & M. at Austin." In accordance with this call the business men of Austin turned out for another railroad meeting.

N. P. Austin was called to the chair and L. A. Sherwood was chosen secretary. The committee of gentlemen who had lately attended a meeting of the directors of the Iowa road at Mason City made a report, of which the *Democrat* said, "We do not consider it advisable to give to the public. Most of our citizens who are interested heard it; there is nothing in it that should discourage persons who are interested in the prosperity of Austin from doing their utmost to secure the connection of the Iowa road with the Minnesota Central at this point." But little was done at this meeting, as the whole matter was left in the hands of the Austin & Northwood Railroad Company, which was organized at this place a short time previous.

In its issue of May 11, 1869, a local paper contains the following article relative to

railroad matters: "A number of the citizens of Austin held a meeting on Monday evening of last week, and organized a railroad company for the purpose of building a road from this place to Northwood, Iowa, there to intersect the road from Eldora. Sherman Page was selected as a delegate to attend a meeting of the directors of the Eldora road, to be held at Mason City on the 5th inst. We are without the proceedings of the meeting or full particulars, but understand that the meeting was principally composed of Albert Lea and Owatonna gentlemen, who organized a company to build a road from Owatonna *via* Albert Lea to intersect the Iowa road at Northwood. Of course they could not see encouragement and assistance to the Austin and Northwood road. But we do not see any reason why this should discourage Austin in looking after her connection with this great through line of railroad from St. Louis to St. Paul. Austin is able to build the road to a point in Iowa, and as this is the direct route it is altogether probable the through trains will come this way. If the Albert Lea folks want a side track out there and will build it—they ought to have it."

May 18, 1869, the following article appears in one of the local papers: "We are informed that work was resumed last week upon the unfinished portion of the Minnesota Central railroad between this place and the Iowa line, and that it will be completed by the time the Cedar Valley road is finished to the north line of Iowa, which it is asserted will be completed in a few months. It is thought the whole line of the road will be completed through to Burlington, Iowa,

another year. The bonds of the road have been thrown upon the market in New York and London, running fifty years and bearing 7 per cent interest. The Cedar Valley Company is being backed by the Pennsylvania Central, and solid men are at the head of it, so that we may confidently expect that the whole line of road will be built in a short time."

In May, 1869, the following appeared in a newspaper in one of the adjoining counties:—"Austin, a flourishing place on the southern border of Minnesota is longing for a southern outlet. This she was promised by the Iowa Central R. R., but since that company was gobbled up by the Iowa River R. R., they are anxious to unite their fortune with ours, (the Eldora). But fourteen miles of grading is necessary to give them connection with the Minnesota Central, and they will pledge themselves to finish it for the iron in sixty days, and place it at the disposal of the through line. By Albert Lea over forty miles must be built to secure connection at Owatonna with the Minnesota Company. East and west railroads have lorded it over western shippers and producers long enough. The best of men in time get sick of making two bushels of wheat pay for carrying two bushels of wheat to market. The valley of the Mississippi has already rebelled and sent its grain by barges to New Orleans. If the Iowa Valley is smaller, it is no less active and earnest about having new and cheaper outlets for grain. This north and south line through Eldora is to be the first railway communication between St. Louis and St. Paul—it will be complete in two years and the best paying line of road in Iowa.

In its issue of June 8, 1869, the *Austin Democrat* contains the following "railway news:"

Messrs. Allen & Stewart, the contractors upon the Southern Minnesota railroad, are putting on a very large force of men, and intend crowding the work as much as possible until harvest, when they will slack up for a time, to give the farmers as much help as possible to secure their grain. They have now some five or six hundred men at work, and a large number of teams, and they want as many more, and will pay good wages. We believe it is the intention of the S. M. R. R. Co. to make Austin the eastern terminus of their road for receiving and delivering freight. They will have to receive both freight and passengers of the Milwaukee & St. Paul road, as also to deliver to it, and we believe it is the intention to do this at Austin.

As to the Minnesota Central, Mr. Merrill informs us that he has from sixty to seventy men at work grading this road between this place and the State line, and that he expects to have the principal grading done in thirty days. He thinks without doubt, that the cars will be running through on the Cedar Valley road to this place in September or October.

St. Paul & St. Louis.—A party of gentlemen with competent engineers started from Austin this week for the purpose of making a survey from this place to the State line, and probably from thence to Northwood. We observe that some of the citizens of Owatonna are almost moving heaven and earth to secure this road at that place by way of Albert Lea, or at least they made a stupendous effort to carry the election in favor of

the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. tax, which was held there." From a report made by the directors we glean the following items regarding this road:—"The distance from the State line to Owatonna, on the line of the road, is forty four miles—twenty-six miles being in Freeborn county and eighteen in Steele county. The citizens of Freeborn county have raised the sum of \$27,000 to grade the road through their county, and the different towns through which the road is to pass, are going to vote bonds to the amount of \$48,000 more, or \$75,000 in all. In Steele county the estimated cost of grading is \$32,000, of which about \$12,000 has been subscribed by private parties, and about \$7,500 is pledged by the towns through which the road is to pass, and Owatonna is expected to raise the rest by a tax."

July 20, 1869, the following item appeared in one of the local papers under the head of "Railroad Connection with St. Louis"—"Austin is bound to have nearly an air line railroad connection with St. Louis, whether she succeeds in getting the Iowa Central road to make connection with the Minnesota Central at this place or not. A Cedar Rapids paper says that an air line from St. Paul to St. Louis will strike Cedar Rapids and Burlington and the route *via* the Minnesota Central Railroad, and Cedar Rapids will at no point diverge more than twenty miles from the air line. The road from St. Louis to Burlington, 170 miles, will be completed this year. From Burlington to Waterloo, 160 miles, the road is rapidly building and will be done by January 1. The entire distance between St. Louis and St. Paul will be 540 miles, which is shorter by

forty miles than the proposed route by Mankato. The country through which this road is to run is one of surpassing beauty and richness as an agricultural region, embracing as it does the fertile valley of the Cedar river in Iowa, and the no less fertile region along the line of the Minnesota Central railroad. The entire length of the road is through a thickly settled and highly cultivated section of country.

The following railroad items were published in the *Democrat* in its issue of January 4, 1870: "Connection was made at the State line between the Minnesota Central and Cedar Valley roads some ten years ago. The Milwaukee & St. Paul Company commenced running trains to the State line on Friday last, and the Illinois Central Company commenced running their trains to the State line to-day. A transfer of passengers and freight will be made at the State line for the present. This arrangement is not at all satisfactory to the people of this section, nor should we presume it would be to the Illinois Central Company. We shall hope on until we get something better.

"The Iowa Central Railroad, the one which we expect to make the connecting link between St. Paul and St. Louis has lately completed another section. The road is now completed and cars running between Ackley and Marshalltown. \* \* \* The probability is that the road will now be lo-

cated on a more easterly or direct line from St. Paul to St. Louis than was formerly contemplated, connecting with the old Minnesota Central road at the State line.

"Track laying on the Southern Minnesota road is progressing with a reasonable degree of speed. The cars are now running into the edge of Faribault county, and it is expected that they will reach Wells the latter part of this week or the first of next."

At the present time (1884) Austin has become no small railroad center. In addition to the various lines belonging to the great Milwaukee system, which enters the city, another important line is now under course of construction. This line is known as the "Minnesota & Northwestern" and is virtually a continuation of one of the greatest systems in the West—the Illinois Central. This road runs, according to the present survey, which has been made by Chief Engineer N. B. Fvarts, from Lyle on the Minnesota and Iowa State line by the way of Austin, to West St. Paul. This road, when completed, will give the people of the county a decided advantage over their former railroad system, in relation to the reduction of freights. The property owners have through their liberal generosity aided in the construction of this line by way of subsidy. With these two competing lines traversing the fertile domain of Mower county, she will enjoy railroad facilities second to none in the State.

## CHAPTER XIII.

## THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

The institution of slavery was always a source of trouble between the free and slave-holding States. The latter were always troubled with the thought that the former would encroach upon their rights, and nothing could be done to shake this belief. Compromise measures from time to time were adopted to settle the vexed question of slavery, but the fears of the slaveholders were only allayed for a short time. Threats of secession were often made by the slave-holding States, but as soon as measures of a conciliatory character were passed, no attempt was made to carry their threats into execution. Finally came the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and the adoption of a measure known as the Kansas-Nebraska bill. This bill opened certain territory to slavery which, under the former act, was forever to be free. About the time of the passage of this act, the Whig party was in a state of dissolution, and the great body of that party, together with certain Democrats who were opposed to the Kansas-Nebraska bill, united, thus forming a new party to which was the name of Republican, having for its object the prevention of

the further extension of slavery. The people of the South imagined they saw in this new party not only an organized effort to prevent the extension of slavery, but one that would eventually be used to destroy slavery in those States in which it already existed.

In 1860 four Presidential tickets were in the field. Abraham Lincoln was the candidate of the Republicans; Stephen A. Douglas, of the National Democrat; John C. Breckenridge, of the Pro-Slavery interests, and John Bell, of the Union. The Union party was composed principally of those who had previously affiliated with the American or Know-Nothing party. Early in the campaign there were threats of secession and disunion in case of the election of Abraham Lincoln, but the people were so accustomed to Southern bravado that little heed was given to the bluster.

On the 20th of December, 1860, South Carolina, by a convention of delegates, declared "That the Union now existing between South Carolina and the other States of North America is dissolved, and that the State of South Carolina has resumed her po-

sition among the Nations of the earth as a free sovereign and independent State, with full power to levy war and conclude peace; contract alliances, establish commerce, and do all other acts and things which independent States may of right do." On the 24th Gov. Pickens issued a proclamation declaring that "South Carolina is, and has a right to be a free and independent State, and as such has a right to levy war, conclude peace, and do all acts whatever that rightfully appertain to a free and independent State." On the 26th Major Anderson evacuated Post Moultrie and occupied Fort Sumpter. Two days previously he wrote President Buchanan's Secretary of War, John B. Floyd, as follows:

"When I inform you that my garrison consists of only sixty effective men, and that we are in very indifferent works, the walls of which are only fourteen feet high; and that we have within one hundred and sixty yards of our walls, sand hills which command our works, and which afford admirable sites for batteries, and the first converts for sharpshooters; and that besides this there are many houses, some of them within pistol shot, and you will at once see that if attacked in force, headed by any one but a simpleton, there is scarcely a possibility of our being able to hold out long enough for our friends to come to our succor."

This appeal for re-inforcements was seconded by General Scott, but unheeded by President Buchanan, and entirely ignored by John B. Floyd, Secretary of War.

On the 28th South Carolina troops occupied Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney, and hoisted the palmetto flag on the ramparts. On the 29th John B. Floyd resigned his

place in Buchanan's cabinet, charging that the President in refusing to remove Major Anderson from Charleston Harbor, designed to plunge the country into civil war, and added: "I cannot consent to be the agent of such a calamity." On the same day the South Carolina commissioners presented their official credentials at Washington, which, on the next day, were declined.

On the second day of January, 1861, Georgia declared for secession, and Georgia troops took possession of the United States arsenal in Augusta, and Forts Pulaski and Jackson.

Gov. Ellis, of North Carolina, seized the forts at Beaufort and Wilmington, and the arsenal at Fayetteville. On the evening of the 4th, the Alabama and Mississippi delegations in Congress telegraphed the conventions of their respective states to secede, telling them there was no prospect of a satisfactory adjustment. On the 7th, the conventions of Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee met in secession conclave. On the 9th, Secretary Thompson resigned his seat in the cabinet on the ground that, contrary to promises, troops had been sent to Major Anderson. On the 9th the "Star of the West," carrying supplies and re-enforcements to Major Anderson, was fired into from Morris Island, and turned homeward, leaving Fort Sumpter and its gallant little band to the mercy of the rebels. On the same day the ordinance passed the Mississippi convention. Florida adopted an ordinance of secession on the 10th, and Alabama on the 11th. The same day (the 11th) Thompson, secretary of the treasury resigned, and the rebels seized the arsenal at Baton Rouge

and Forts Jackson and St. Philip, at the mouth of the Mississippi river, and Fort Pike at the Lake Pontchartrain entrance. Pensacola navy yard and Fort Barrancas were surrendered to rebel troops by Colonel Armstrong on the 13th. Lieutenant Slemmer, who had drawn his command from Fort McRae to Fort Pickens, defied Armstrong's order, and announced his intention "to hold the fort" at all hazards. The Georgia convention adopted an ordinance of secession on the 19th.

On the 20th, Lieutenant Slemmer was besieged by a thousand "allied troops" at Fort Pickens.

Louisiana adopted an ordinance of secession on the 25th.

On the 1st of February the rebels seized the United States mint and custom house at New Orleans. The peace convention assembled at Washington on the 4th, but adjourned without doing anything to quiet the disturbed elements. On the 9th, a provisional constitution was adopted at Montgomery, Alabama, it being the constitution of the United States "re-constructed" to suit their purpose. Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, was chosen president, and Alexander H. Stevens, of Georgia, vice-president of the "Confederate States of North America." Jefferson Davis was inaugurated on the 18th, and on the 25th it was learned that General Twiggs, commanding the department of Texas, had basely betrayed his trust, and that he had surrendered all the military posts, munitions and arms to the authorities of Texas. Mr. Lincoln was inaugurated March 4, 1861, in front of the capitol, the inauguration ceremonies being witnessed by a vast

concourse of people. Before taking the oath Mr. Lincoln pronounced in a clear, ringing voice his inaugural address, to hear which there was an almost painful solicitude, to read which the whole American people and civilized world awaited with irrepressible anxiety. With that address and the administration of the oath of office, the people were assured. All doubt, if any had previously existed, was removed. In the hands of Abraham Lincoln, the people's president, and himself of the people, the government was safe. Traitors were still busy plotting and planning. Troops were mustering in all the seceded states.

On Friday, April 12, the surrender of Fort Sumpter, with its garrison of sixty effective men, was demanded and bravely refused by the gallant Major Anderson. Fire was at once opened on the helpless garrison by the rebel forces, numbered by thousands. Resistance was useless, and at last the National colors were hauled down, and by traitor hands were trailed in the dust.

On Sunday morning, the 14th, the news of the surrender was received in all the principal cities of the Union. That was all, but that was enough.

A day later, when the news was confirmed and spread through the country, the patriotic people of the North were roused from their dreams of the future—from undertakings half completed—and made to realize that behind that mob there was a dark, deep and well-organized purpose to destroy the government, rend the Union in twain, and out of its ruins erect a slave oligarchy, wherein no one would dare question their rights to hold in bondage the sons and daughters of men

whose skin was black. Their dreams of the future—their plans for the establishment of an independent confederacy—were doomed from their inception, to sad and bitter disappointment. Everywhere north of Mason and Dixon's line, the voice of Providence was heard :

“Draw forth your million blades as one,  
Complete the battle now begun ;  
God fights with ye, and overhead  
Floats the dear banner of your dead.  
They, and the glories of the past,  
The future, dawning dim and vast,  
And all the holiest hopes of man,  
Are beaming triumphant in your van.”

“Slow to resolve, be swift to do,  
Teach ye the False, how fights the true !  
How buckled Perfidy shall feel,  
In her black heart the Patriot's steel ;  
How sure the bolt that justice wings ;  
How weak the arm a traitor brings ;  
How mighty they who steadfast stand,  
For Freedom's flag and Freedom's land.”

On Monday, April 15th, President Lincoln issued the following proclamation :

WHEREAS, The laws of the United States have for some time past, and are now, opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed. In the States of South Carolina, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the marshals ; now therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested by the constitution and the laws, have thought to call forth, and hereby do bring forth, the militia of the several States of the Union, to the number of 75,000, in order to suppress said combinations, and to cause the laws to be duly executed. The details for this subject will be immediately communicated to the State authorities through the War Department. I appeal to all loyal citizens to favor, facilitate, and to aid this effort to maintain the honor, the integrity and existence of our National Union, and the perpetuity of popular government, and to redress wrongs already long endured. I deem

it proper to say that the first services assigned to the forces hereby called forth, will probably be to repossess the forts, places and property, which have been seized from the Union ; and in every event the utmost care will be observed, consistently with the object aforesaid, to avoid any devastation, any destruction of, or interference with property, or any disturbance of peaceful citizens in any part of the country ; and I hereby command the persons composing the combinations aforesaid, to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes, within twenty days from this date.

Deeming that the present condition of public affairs presents an extraordinary occasion, I do hereby, in virtue of the power in me vested by the constitution, convene both Houses of Congress. The Senators and Representatives are, therefore summoned to assemble at their respective chambers at 12 o'clock, noon, on Thursday, the fourth day of July next, then and there to consider and determine such measures as in their wisdom the public safety and interest may seem to demand.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, the fifteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-fifth.

By the President,

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

W. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.”

The last words of this proclamation had scarcely been taken from the electric wire before the call was filled. Men and money were counted out by hundreds and thousands. The people who loved their whole country could not give enough. Patriotism thrilled and vibrated and pulsed through every heart. The farm, the work-shop, the office, the pulpit, the bar, the bench, the college, the school house—every calling offered its best men, their lives and fortunes, in de-

fense of the governments honor and unity. Party lines were for a time ignored. Bitter words, spoken in moments of political heat, were forgotten and forgiven, and, joining hands in a common cause, they repeated the oath of America's soldier statesman: "By the Great Eternal, the Union must and shall be preserved!"

Seventy-five thousand men were not enough to subdue the rebellion. Nor were ten times that number. The war went on, and call followed call, until it seemed as if there were not men enough in all the free States to crush out the rebellion. But to every call for either men or money there was a willing and ready response. The gauntlet thrown down by the traitors of the South was accepted; not, however, in the spirit with which insolence meets insolence, but with a firm, determined spirit of patriotism and love of country.

The duty of the president was plain under the constitution and laws, and, above and beyond all, the people, from whom all political power is derived, demanded the suppression of the rebellion, and stood ready to sustain the authority of their representative and executive officers to the utmost extremity. Mower county was behind no county in the State in the exhibition of sublime patriotism. The news did not reach the county in time to be numbered in the first call of the president for 75,000 men, but in the second and every succeeding call it responded with its noblest and best men, some of whom went forth never to return. The record of the county at home or in the field, is a noble one. By referring to the chapter containing the action of the board of supervis-

ors it will be seen what was done in an official way. In an unofficial way the people took hold of the work, aided enlistments, and furnished a large amount of sanitary supplies.

September 4, 1861, the *Courier* says under the head of "Contrabands in Town": "On Friday last we learn that two negroes—fugitives from Missouri—passed through town on their way to Canada. They were mounted on horses, which they took from their masters to assist them on their journey. Those who saw them say they were fine looking fellows, and worth, perhaps, in Missouri from eight to twelve hundred dollars each."

In November, 1861, when the "Mower County Guards" were raised a movement was set on foot to present the company with a flag, by the ladies of Austin. In speaking of the affair the *Minnesota Courier* in its issue of November 27, 1861, said: "The material was purchased in St. Paul by Mrs. B. F. Lindsey and Mrs. J. L. Clark, is all silk, and is said by the lady who made it up, and who has furnished several other companies, to be the finest one and manufactured of the best materials. The Guards promised to send it down by some of the company, during the winter provided they remained at the fort and were not ordered South. On receiving the flag Mr. Martin, on behalf of the company, Captain Mooers being absent, received the flag and returned the thanks of the company in a brief and appropriate speech, which was responded to by the company with three rousing cheers for the ladies of Austin, and the burning of the usual amount of powder.

"We think it no more than right that the

ladies, who have given their time and energy in raising the money, by soliciting subscriptions to furnish the company with a flag, should at least receive a passing notice from us, and the thanks of our lady friends generally. We are of the opinion that if Mrs. Clark and Linsey had not taken the matter in hand, our company would have to-day been without a flag. They have done their part well, and from what we know of the ladies of Austin they will not soon be forgotten. The cost of the flag was \$16.98."

In its issue of December 11, 1861, the *Courier* published a list of those who subscribed toward the purchase of the flag; but as only a mutilated copy of that issue has been preserved it is impossible to ascertain at this late date, the full list of contributors. The following are the names of the ladies shown in the paper: Mrs. G. W. Bishop, Wm. Hunt, R. L. Kimball, E. W. Ford, S. W. Paul, L. Piper, E. Parliman, E. Gallow, L. Hunt, J. W. Fake and Mrs. William Brown.

The Minnesota *Courier* in its issue on the 6th of August, 1862, explained the difference between "volunteering and being drafted" in the following terse language: "A volunteer receives the full bounty—\$25 advance bounty, one month's pay (\$13) in advance, and \$75 at the end of his time of service, together with the usual 160 acres of bounty land. Besides all this his family receives pecuniary assistance during his absence. The drafted militia receive but \$11 per month, and no money bounty. They can be held to service out of the state three months by order of the governor. Let no one, however, deceive himself with the idea that

drafted soldiers will serve only 3 months, for after the militia are drafted, congress can easily hold them to serve during the war."

On the 13th of August, 1862, the following appeared in the *Courier*:

"PRIVATE BOUNTY."

GRAND MEADOW, August 7, 1862.

"I will give to every volunteer that may join any company now forming in this county from Pleasant Valley, Grand Meadow, Racine, Frankford and LeRoy, a bounty of \$2 for single men, and to every married man five bushels of wheat for the use of his family, extra. If this offer is not too small, please publish and send me twenty papers. Volunteering to be from this date to August 31st.

Respectfully,

B. F. LANGWORTHY.

August 20, 1862, the same loyal paper contains the following article: "The citizens of Adams township have raised by private subscription, \$142, to be paid in cash on or before two months, provided, however, this bounty will prevent drafting in Adams township. This township is principally settled with foreigners, and all, with the exception of a few Irish, are loyal citizens, and will do all in their power to aid in raising volunteers, as this liberal subscription will show. Out of a population of 25 or 30 Irish in this township but two have subscribed or shown any willingness to do anything toward escaping a draft, but on the contrary are threatening to resist it. They are now doing all in their power to prevent enlistments and ought to be arrested and furnished with a free pass to Fort Snelling and there pressed into the service. There are a few of this class of adopted citizens in Red Rock

township that will have to be attended to unless they change their tone a little."

In the same issue it is stated that "Capt. E. W. Ford left this place on Saturday last for Fort Snelling with upwards of seventy men all from this county, to be mustered into the United States service under the calls for 600,000 men. Mower county will furnish her quota without resorting to a draft. On Sunday last four more started for the Fort to join Mr. Ford's company, and we hear of several others who are ready to go, provided they can get into the company from this county.

And again in the same paper it is stated that "the war meetings which have just been held at Austin, Frankford and Brownsdale were well attended and the result is that Mower county has almost raised her quota. The three towns above named we believe are now exempt from the draft. The town of Lansing is awake and will this week, in all probably, raise the quota of that town. It is time for the other towns to be looking out if they expect to escape the draft.

In the issue of the *Courier*, Sept. 3, 1862, it is said: "The draft is postponed until the 3rd of October." \* \* \* "When we get the 600,000 men into the field, who are now organizing for the war, thus swelling our grand army to over a million, we can sweep the rebels from the face of the earth in a month or two. We can then form a solid column of bayonets and cannons, reaching almost from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, and by one determined "forward march," drive all the traitors and rebels down into the gulf, like a drove of frightened swine.

It will be a privilege to belong to that great army of the Union—a glorious thing to think of and talk about after the war, and for your children to be proud over through coming generations. 'I was a soldier in the army of the Union that saved the Republic,' will be as proud a title to the respect of your countrymen and of the world, as now is the claim of those few remaining veterans, who can say 'I was a soldier in the army of the Revolutionary war, and fought under Washington.'"

#### THE FALL OF VICKSBURG AT AUSTIN.

When the news of the fall of Vicksburg was received at Austin, a grand jubilee meeting was held at Headquarters hall, on the evening of July 10, 1863. J. H. C. Wilson was called to the chair, and T. J. Lake appointed secretary. Speeches were made by Revs. Parker, Tice, Clark and Lake, also by Colonel Lewis, of the 28th Wisconsin, who had just returned from the "seat of war," and Judge Ormanzo Allen. Colonel Lewis' speech was *the* one of the evening. Fresh from the army and having endured all the hardships of the war, he could talk as soldiers only can talk on such occasions, and his remarks produced the wildest enthusiasm. He closed by saying "Copperheadism is worse than secession among the soldiers. When his comrades found he was coming north, each said: 'kill a copperhead for us!' Amid much enthusiasm the following resolution was adapted:

"*Resolved*, That the soldiers of the Minnesota Fourth, always in the advance, and always victorious, have achieved for themselves honor and glory worth more than all the achievements that can be possibly made by the greatest and most distinguished civilian

in the land, in the capture of Vicksburg—the Sebastapool of Rebellom.”

WAR NEWS.

The Mower County *Register*, in its issue of January 28, 1864, contains a number of interesting items relating to the Mower county men in the service. The following items are gleaned from that issue.

Promotions.—The following worthy promotions have been made in the fourth regiment: 1st Lieut., S. T. Isaac to be Captain; 1st Lieut. D. L. Wellman, to be Captain; 1st Lieut. C. C. Hunt, to be Captain; 2nd Lieuts., Orlando Graham and S. W. Russell, to be 1st Lieuts., Orderly Sergeant, C. W. Douglass, to be 1st Lieut.

In the same issue the announcement is made that Co. K, of the 4th Minnesota regiment, has re-enlisted for “three years or during the war”—every man except two. The following is a list of members who re-enlisted:

- Captain—Charles C. Hunt.
- First Lieutenant—C. W. Douglass.
- Sergeants—Geo. Baird, Marion R. Lyle, V. W. Houghton, Sam'l M. Clayton.
- Corporals—R. S. Perkins, Stephen Maxon, John Mullen, S. E. Morse, A. M. Kenniston.
- Privates—W. H. H. Bullock, Henry B. Burgor, F. H. Belot, N. Barnes, A. Chapel, Jacob H. Epler, N. Frost, McConnell Fitch, John Frank, A. C. Hursh, A. O. Hollister, P. E. Jenks, M. Kiefer, W. S. Kimball, S. Mathews, C. Powers, E. A. Parker, John Rochford, S. Giff, Geo. Therrnott, Solomon Tallman, E. A. Whitcomb, O. H. Wiley.

Mower county's record, up to this time, January 1864, Mower county had furnished 275 men for the service.

QUOTA OF MOWER COUNTY.

In an issue in August, 1864, the Rochester *City Post* thus speaks of Mower county and its quota: “Mower county has done nobly for the cause of the Union, and we feel proud of the record; but we should never weary in well doing, and it is to be hoped that some volunteers may yet be secured from Austin and Lansing, who stand ahead. Racine, Nevada, Udolpho and other towns that are deficient should begin at once and make extra efforts to furnish their quotas by volunteering and thus free Mower county from the draft. The following table shows the quotas, credits and deficiencies of the several towns in the county as they now stand:

Townships.	Quota.	Credit.	Deficiency.
Adams.....	5		5
Austin.....	14	50	
Grand Meadow....	3		3
Lansing.....	9	16	
Lyle.....	5	14	
Nevada.....	7		7
Pleasant Valley....	4	1	3
Red Rock.....	9	7	2
Racine.....	9		9
Udolpho.....	4		4
Windom.....	6	5	1
Bennington.....	3		
Frankford.....	7	12	1
LeRoy.....	3		

In its issue of March 2, 1865, the Mower County *Register* says: “The draft hangs by a hair! At any moment it may descend upon us. How shall we avoid it? By going into the army in person or by proxy; by going ourselves or sending substitutes. Where volunteering goes on briskly, the draft will not reach; where volunteering ceases, the conscription will be ordered to commence. Rouse, then, and let us make every exertion, and exert every energy for the recruiting of

our army. By sundry alterations at the Provost Marshal's office, the town of Austin has to furnish under the last call for 300,000 *thirteen men*. We learn further, that movements are now progressing for the purpose of raising a town bounty, as an inducement to volunteer."

The *Register*, in its issue of July 21, 1864, contains the following "News from the boys of Company C, Ninth regiment:" "Through the kindness of Mrs. Stephen Chandler we have been shown a letter from her husband, which enables us to secure knowledge of the whereabouts of our liberty-defending patriots. Mr. Chandler is a prisoner in Meridan, Mississippi. Those of Company C yet prisoners are: Capt. E. W. Ford, A. Avery, J. Clark, William Breckon, Ludoviso Bourgard, A. Wheeler, Duane Philes, C. Steward, J. Woodbury, S. H. Ames, W. Lyons, Conrad W. McCaskell, I. Bisgrove, E. Rice, W. Rice, C. D. Rhodes, T. H. B. Vandegrift, John Barnett and Stephen N. Chandler.

Colonel Henry C. Rogers was born in Vermont in 1834. He removed to Minnesota in 1856 and settled in Mower county, where he engaged in farming and mercantile business. In 1862 he was a member of the House of Representatives in this State and in the fall of that year was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the Eighth Minnesota, and held that position until mustered out at the close of the war. In the fall of 1865 he was elected Secretary of State and was re-elected in 1867, when his health precluded his longer holding that position. In the winter of 1869-70 he was appointed pension agent of Minnesota and held that position until his death. At the battle of Murfrees-

boro, in December, 1864, Lieutenant-Colonel Rogers was in command of his regiment, Col. Thomas having command of the brigade, and his troops were ordered to hold a position in an open field against the enemy located in the woods adjacent. The fire became so hot that Col. Rogers ordered his men to lie down, while he, with that courage which knew no fear, rode up and down the line, a conspicuous target for the enemy. He faced the bullets in safety until just as the victory was won, when a bullet struck his right arm, passed through it, and would have gone through his body but for the fortunate interposition of a belt buckle. From this wound he never recovered, and his health until his death remained in precarious condition. He died on the 8th of May, 1871, at Brownsdale. The *St. Paul Dispatch* spoke as follows of him: "He was a man without an enemy, generous to a fault, courageous as a lion and most thoroughly honest. His political career was marked by no deceit or disreputable intrigue. He never married but he leaves friends who will mourn his death as deeply as any family could have done, and when the grave closes upon Henry Rogers it will enfold in its relentless embrace one of the truest and most honored of all the citizens Minnesota ever possessed."

The following is an account given by the local press, of the unveiling of a monument erected to his honor:

The long anticipated exercises connected with the unveiling of the monument to the memory of Col. Rogers took place at Brownsdale, yesterday.

A large delegation from Austin, not less than 150, and it would have been larger but



*C. H. Davidson*

for the unpropitious character of the weather, went over partly by train and partly with teams, including the second regiment band, McIntyre Post and Co. G. N. G.

On arriving at Brownsdale it was found impossible, on account of the bad conditions of the road, caused by the heavy rains of the morning, to march to the cemetery, so the procession was formed at depot, under Burr Maxwell, Marshal, Comrades Palmetter and Scott, aids, and proceeded to the school house grounds, where the program was carried out as far as practicable.

There were present besides the Austin and Brownsdale people, delegations from James George Post, Burdick Post No. 3, Spring Valley with band, and Baker Post No. 16, Fillmore county. After music by the band, the old flag of Co. K. was hung from an upper window over the heads of the speakers, and greeted with rousing cheers.

Ex-Governor Ramsey was chosen President of the day by acclamation, and acknowledged the honor with a short address, referring to the memory of Col. Rogers in the most eloquent terms, and gave the names of the principal donors to the monument fund.

Captain Beaulieu, of Henry Rogers Post, acknowledged in behalf of the Post, the gift of the monument.

Letters from Pennock Pusey, J. H. Baker, and A. C. Hawley, full of noble testimonies to the worth of Col. Rogers, were then read by Commander Swift.

Hon. M. H. Dunnell followed with the address of the afternoon, which was a fine tribute of loving remembrance to the man whom all men delighted to honor.

After the close of the oration, cheers were

given for Gov. Ramsey and Hon. M. H. Dunnell, and for the old flag.

The audience then dispersed, and at 7:00 the Austin delegation returned, well pleased with their excursion.

#### ROLL OF HONOR.

In this connection has been compiled from the adjutant-general's report, the names of the soldiers, who enlisted from Mower county. If any are omitted, it is not intentional, for great care has been exercised in collecting this matter, and none have greater veneration for the brave soldier than the authors of this volume. As the only possible way to ascertain the whereabouts of each soldier, is to depend upon the official reports as published under authority of the State, any mistakes in spelling names or the omission of them entirely, should be charged to such official reports.

Mower county was represented in the Union army as follows:

#### SECOND INFANTRY—COMPANY B.

Originally commanded by Capt. William Markham; mustered into the service of the United States, for three years, on the 26th day of June, 1861, by Capt. A. D. Nelson, mustering officer.

Privates—Daniel Ames:

#### COMPANY C.

Originally commanded by Capt. Peter Mantor, mustered into the United States' service June 26, 1861, by Capt. A. D. Nelson, mustering officer.

First Lieutenant—William T. Mills.

Privates—Headly B. Kimball, George H. Ames, Robert A. Dermin, William J. Johnson, Frederick McCormick, Edwin R. Mor-

rill, Asaph Mayo, Edwin Frazier, Nelson C. Frazier, Philander Sheffield.

The Second Regiment of Infantry was organized in July, 1861, and ordered to Louisville, Ky., in October 1861, and there assigned to the army of the Ohio. They engaged in the following marches, battles, and skirmishes: Mill Spring, January 19, 1862; Siege of Corinth, April, 1862. Then they were transferred to the army of the Tennessee, and joined in Bragg's Raid, Perryville, October 8, 1862; Skirmishes of the Tullahoma campaign; Battle of Chickamauga, September 19 and 20, 1863; Mission Ridge, November 25, 1863. In battles of the Atlantic campaign, as follows: Reseca, June 14, 15, and 16, 1864; Kenesaw Mountain, June 27, 1864; Jonesboro; Sherman's march through Georgia and the Carolinas; Bentonville, March 19, 1865. They were discharged at Ft. Snelling, July 11, 1865.

#### THIRD INFANTRY—COMPANY C.

Originally commanded by Capt. John R. Bennett, was mustered in service October 25, 1861, A. D. Nelson, mustering officer.

First Lieutenant—Lewis Hardy.  
Sergeant—William F. Grummons.  
Corporal—George McKay.

#### COMPANY I.

Privates—Andrew J. Clark.

#### COMPANY K.

Privates—Oscar Haws.

#### THE THIRD MINNESOTA INFANTRY

was organized in the month of October, 1861, and ordered to Nashville, Tenn., March 1862. They were captured and paroled at Murfreesboro, July 1861. They were ordered to St. Louis, Mo., and from

thence to Minnesota, where they engaged in the Indian Expeditions, of 1862, participating in the battles of Wood Lake, in September 1862. In October, 1863, they were ordered to Little Rock, Ark. They engaged in the battle of Fitzhugh's Woods, March 30, 1864. Later, they were sent to Pine Bluff, Ark., and from that point to DuValls Bluff, from which place they were mustered out in September 1865, and discharged at Ft. Snelling, Minn.

#### FOURTH INFANTRY—COMPANY A.

Originally commanded by Captain Luther B. Baxter, was mustered into service October 4, 1861, by A. D. Nelson, mustering officer. Captains—Charles W. Douglass, Charles C. Hunt, (Co. G.)

Second Lieutenants—A. E. Wood, W. B. Spencer.

First Lieutenants—Ira N. Morrill, George Baird.

#### COMPANY E.

Originally commanded by Capt. Ebenezer LeGro, was mustered into service November 27, 1861.

Corporal—Elijah F. Armstrong.  
Privates—Austin Rosenburgh, Harrison H. Hartley.

#### COMPANY F.

Originally commanded by Capt. Asa W. White, was mustered into service October 11, 1861.

Privates—Nathan M. Thomas, John McCaskel.

#### COMPANY I.

Private—Ashley Cameron.

#### COMPANY K.

Originally commanded by Capt. Robert

P. Moores, was mustered into the United States service for three years, on the 23d day of December, 1861, by Captain A. D. Nelson, mustering officer.

Captain—Robert P. Moores.

Second Lieutenant—W. B. Spencer.

First Sergeants—Ira N. Morrill, Charles C. Hunt, George Carrier, Marion Lyle, George W. Bishop.

Corporals—John E. Hussey, Samuel B. Rolfe, George Mail, Alonzo C. Houghton, Samuel Surface, John Frank, Vincent B. Lincoln.

Musicians—William B. Whitford James Davis.

Wagoner—Ambrose C. Smith.

Privates—Thomas I. Bishop, W. H. H. Bullock, George Baird, William H. Bogart, Asa B. Carlton, Nathaniel Trost, James Guy, Thomas Greene, George S. Hutchinson, Horace Barber, Henry Bugor, Israel Baker, Samuel M. Clayton, Ethan R. Earl, Harvey B. Earl, William H. Gifford, Virgil W. Houghton, Plympton E. Jenks, Wilbur S. Kimball, Asa C. Lawrence, James Morrison, Stephen Maxon, Samuel E. Morse, William M. Pace, Caleb Powers, Robert S. Perkins, Samuel Shutz, Robert T. Tiff, Sylvanus Woodworth, Miles M. Trowbridge, E. A. Whitcomb, Stephen Tiff, Henry Loomis, Samuel Loomis, Samuel J. Mathews, John Mullin, Joseph F. Owen, Samuel Parks, Eugene E. Parmenter, Joseph H. Reed, Charles Shuler, Solomon Tollman, Peter G. Mills, W. C. Sommers, Ole S. Oleson, Edwin A. Parker, Sherwin Clow, Jacob H. Epler, Abram O. Hollister.

THE FOURTH REGIMENT OF MINNESOTA INFANTRY

was organized December 23, 1861, and or-

dered to Benton Barracks, Missouri, April 19, 1862. They were assigned to the Army of the Mississippi May 4, 1862. This brave regiment participated in the following marches, battles, sieges and skirmishes: Siege of Corinth, April, 1862; Iuka, September 19, 1862; Corinth, October 3 and 4, 1862; Vicksburg, Forty Hills, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hills, Assault of Vicksburg and final capture of Vicksburg, July 4, 1863. They were transferred from the Seventeenth to the Fifteenth army corps. They also were engaged at Mission Ridge, November 25, 1863; Altoona, July 1864; Sherman's March to the Sea; Bentonville, March 20, 1865. They were mustered out at Louisville, Kentucky, July 19, 1865, and discharged at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, upon their return north.

FIFTH INFANTRY—COMPANY B,

originally commanded by John S. Marsh was mustered into service March 24, 1862, for three years.

Private—Webster G. Andrews.

COMPANY H.

Originally commanded by Capt. Otis S. Clark, was mustered into the service of the United States for three years on the 29th day of April, 1862, by Capt. A. D. Nelson, mustering officer.

Privates—William F. Smith, Newton Anderson, Hans. Christianson, John P. Clark, Orlo F. White.

COMPANY I.

Originally commanded by Capt. Luther E. Clark, was mustered into service April 30, 1862, for three years, by Captain A. D. Nelson, mustering officer.

Second Lieutenant—Milton H. Pember.  
Privates—Calvin H. Patchin, Charles E. White.

SEVENTH INFANTRY—COMPANY D.

Originally commanded by Capt. Rolla Banks, was mustered into the United States service for three years on the 30th day of October, 1862, by Lieutenant E. Haight, mustering officer.

First Lieutenant—Hardy Lewis.

Corporal—Ferdinand Elder.

THE FIFTH REGIMENT OF MINNESOTA INFANTRY

was organized May, 1862, and ordered to Pittsburg Landing May 9, 1862. A detachment of three companies remained in Minnesota garrisoning frontier posts. Those who went to the South were engaged as follows: Siege of Corinth, April and May, 1862. The detachment in Minnesota engaged with the Indians at Redwood, Minnesota, August 18, 1862; Siege of Fort Ridgely, August 20, 21 and 22, 1862; Fort Abircrombie, D. T., August, 1862. The regiment was assigned to the Sixteenth army corps and participated in the battle of Iuka, September 18, 1862; Corinth, October 3 and 4, 1862; Jackson, May 14, 1863; Siege of Vicksburg; Assault of Vicksburg, May 22, 1863; Mechanicsburgh, June 3, 1863; Richmond, June 15, 1863; Fort DeRussey, La., March 14, 1864; Red River Expedition, March, April and May, 1864; Lake Chicot, June 6, 1864; Tupelo, June, 1864; Abbeyville, August 23, 1864. They marched from Brownsville, Arkansas, to Cape Girardeau, Missouri; thence by boat to Jefferson City; thence to St. Louis, and were ordered

from there to Nashville, November, 1864. They fought at the battles of Nashville, Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely and were mustered out at Demapolis, Alabama, September 6, 1865, and discharged at Fort Snelling, Minn.

THE SEVENTH REGIMENT OF MINNESOTA INFANTRY

was organized in August, 1862, and ordered out upon an Indian expedition, engaging in the battle of Wood Lake, Minnesota, September 22, 1862. They were stationed at frontier posts till May, 1873, when ordered out on a second Indian raid. They were in battles with the Indians. July 24, 26 and 28, 1863. They were then ordered to St. Louis, Missouri, and from there to Memphis, Tenn., and assigned to the Sixteenth army corps, June, 1864. They participated in the following marches, battles, skirmishes and sieges: Tupelo, July, 1864; Tallahatchie, August 7 and 8, 1864. They were in pursuit of Price from Brownsville, Arkansas, to Cape Girardeau; thence by boat to Jefferson City; thence to the Kansas line; thence to St. Louis, Missouri. They were discharged at Fort Snelling, Minn., August 16, 1865.

EIGHTH INFANTRY.

Lieutenant-Colonel—Henry C. Rogers.

Musician—Azariah H. Chapin.

The Eighth regiment was organized August 1, 1862. They were stationed on the frontier post until May, 1864, when ordered out upon an Indian expedition. They engaged in the following battles: Tah-cha-oku-tu, July 28, 1864; Battle of Cedars, Overalls Creek. They were then ordered to re-

port at Clifton, Tenn.; thence to Cincinnati; thence to Washington; thence to Wilmington; thence to Newburn, N. C., July 11, 1865. They were finally discharged at Fort Snelling, Minn.

## NINTH INFANTRY—COMPANY C.

Originally commanded by Captain Henry C. Rogers was mustered into service for three years, October 5, 1862, by Lieutenant E. Haight, mustering officer.

Captains—Henry C. Rogers, Edwin W. Ford.

First Lieutenants—Lyman A. Sherwood, Francis Merchant, Edwin W. Ford.

Second Lieutenants—Lymar A. Sherwood, Benjamin I. Lindsey.

First Sergeant—Marcius Whitford.

Sergeants—Jeff. E. Davis, Benj. F. Lindsey, William T. Everingham, Francis Merchant.

Corporals—Henry C. Sutherland, Daniel O. Pratt, Thomas H. Vandergrist, John B. Sylvester, Byron A. Van House, Martin B. Johnson.

Musician—Azariah C. Chapin.

Wagoner—Joseph T. Hammond.

Privates—John Arnold, Lewis E. Andrews, Alonzo Avery, Hartland S. Ames, Charles B. Adams, Benj. F. Bartholomew, Ludovico Beaugard, German C. Baldwin, Truman Butler, John Barnett, Charles N. Bostwick, George H. Bullard, Isaac Bisgrove, Daniel E. Bero, James H. Carver, Edwin L. Clapp, Stephen N. Chandelor, George W. Dunton, Samuel Emerson, Joshua C. Epler, David F. M. Felch, Zara Frysbie, Carlton A. Geer, George W. Henderson, Henry L. Holt, John W. Hartley, V. B. Leathers, William N. Lent, Thomas J. Lake, Joseph Lamping,

Noah McCain, William McCaskell, John L. Neller, Duane Philes, Robert H. Phillip, Ira W. Padden, James Parmenter, Joshua T. Pye, Nathan Parmenter, Isaac Peterman, John W. Quinn, Edson M. Rice, William W. Rice, John B. Reverd, O. D. Rhodes, Francis Rafferty, Charles C. Stewart, Christopher Swanson, Edgar P. Spooner, Robert W. Shook, Daniel D. Sargeant, L. D. Stewart, Erastus Slocum, Oscar L. Tanner, John A. Thompson, James M. Tanner, Archibald Taylor, Benjamin Vaughan, Daniel B. Vaughan, James C. Vail, John Watkins, Arad Welch, Adial Wilcox, Siloam Williams Evans Watkins, James N. Woodbury, Augustus Whitney.

## COMPANY E.

Private—Hiram Cummings.

## THE NINTH REGIMENT OF MINNESOTA INFANTRY

was organized in August, 1862, and stationed at frontier posts until September, 1863, when they were ordered to St. Louis, Mo., and from there to Jefferson City, Mo., and distributed among several posts in the interior of the state. In May, 1864, they were ordered to St. Louis, and from there to Memphis, Tenn. They were engaged in the following battles, marches, sieges and skirmishes. Guntown expedition, August, 1864; Tallahatchie, August, 1864; marched in pursuit of Price from Brownsville, Ark., to Cape Girardeau, thence by boat to Jefferson City; thence to Kansas line; thence to St. Louis. They fought heroically in the battles of Nashville, December 15 and 16, 1864; also at Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely in April, 1865. They were discharged at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, August 24, 1865.

## BRACKETT'S BATTALION CAVALRY — COMPANY A.

Originally commanded by Capt. Henning Von Minden, was mustered into service for three years on the 16th day of September, 1861, by Captain A. D. Nelson, mustering officer.

Private—Henry Beckneir.

## COMPANY C.

Private—George Corell.

## COMPANY D.

Sergeant—John W. Farquar.

Saddler—Joseph H. Sticke.

Privates—Samuel J. Bacon, Charles Bell, Daniel B. Cowles, Robert Headfint, Harry Hunter, Calvin Huntley, B. Kenneday, James Mulann, William Pye, Jr., Charles Smith, William Saddler, Simon Vargarson.

BRACKETT'S BATTALION CAVALRY, companies 1, 2, and 3, were organized in October and November 1861. They were ordered to Benton Barracks, Mo., December 1864, and assigned to a regiment called Curtis' Horse. They were ordered to Ft. Henry, Tenn., in February, 1862. The name of the regiment was finally changed to the 5th Iowa Cavalry, as companies G, D, and K. They engaged in the siege before Corinth, in April 1862. In 1864, they were ordered to the Department of the Northwest, and there engaged in an Indian Expedition. They were mustered out by companies, between May and June 1866.

## SECOND CAVALRY—COMPANY A.

Originally commanded by Capt. John R. Jones.

Privates—Eli Leonard, Freeman Leonard.

## COMPANY B.

Originally commanded by Capt. B. F. Jones.

Captain Benj. F. Jones.

Second Lieutenant—Richard O. Hunt.

Sergeants—Thomas B. Morrill, Rochester J. Eyles.

Corporals—John N. Rosenburg, Lester VanHouse, Samuel Sommers, Herman L. Burgess, C. P. Bell.

Farrier—Mark Johnson.

Saddler—Edmond S. Wells.

Trumpeters—Luman Carter and Daniel J. Butts.

Privates—Timothy B. Andrews Roy Anderson, Ardol H. Bush, Alvin C. Blackeslee, George A. Carter, Freman A. Carll, R. J. Cropland, Artemus Colwell, Harding A. Colwell, Silas Dutcher, Jr., Samuel Daniels, Orson A. Dickinson, Thomas Ellis, William H. Earl, Charles C. Emerson, Henry Fitch, Simeon Gifford, Henry Hollingshead, T. L. Johnson, Hans. Jergeson, Edgar E. Jones, Edmond W. Kirk, Horace Kennison, John Parker, Charles M. Perkins, John Ryan, John E. Robinson, Samuel C. Robb, Thomas Rhomes, John C. Ruland, Charles C. Sergeant, Charles Whitney.

## COMPANY C.

Originally commanded by Captain Aaron S. Everest.

Captain—Aaron S. Everest.

Privates—Martin Boland, William Moran, Ole Sjurson, H. M. F. Irgens, Peder Johansen, George Parker, George Thompson.

## COMPANY D.

Originally commanded by Captain James N. Payne.

Saddler—Alexander Marsh.

THE SECOND MINNESOTA CAVALRY

was organized in January, 1864, and ordered out on an Indian expedition in the month of May. They had several engagements with the Indians in July and August of that year. They were stationed at frontier posts until they were mustered out by companies, between November 1865, and June 1866.

HEAVY ARTILLERY, CO. B.

Privates—Johannas Boryeson, Jacob Jacobson, Charles E. Hancock, George W. Stevens.

SHARP SHOOTERS—FIRST COMPANY.

Private—Robert Crippen.

MOUNTED RANGERS—COMPANY H.

Originally commanded by Captain George S. Ruble.

Sergeant—Ewing Lyle.

Privates—Willson Beach, Samuel Loomis, Richard Williams.

COMPANY M.

Originally commanded by Captain J. Starkey.

First Lieutenant—Daniel B. Johnson, Jr.

First Sergeant—W. B. Spencer.

Corporal—Alonzo W. Cowles.

Teamster—Simeon Gifford.

Privates—James Bodine, Richard Huntly, Caleb Lewis, Lucius Woodworth, W. M. Wright, Orville Slocum, John H. Woodworth, Patrick Frost, Joseph Kellen, Warren Macke, George Wood, J. F. Smith.

THE FIRST MOUNTED RANGERS

were organized in March, 1863, and stationed among the frontier posts until May 1, 1863,

when ordered upon an Indian expedition. They had a lively engagement with the savages, on July 24, 26, and 28, 1863. They were mustered out by companies between October 1, 1863, and December 30, 1863.

On the 28th day of July, 1863, while the main army were battling with over 4,000 Indians, two miles west from the camp, thirty-two members of Company M, commanded by Lieutenants D. B. Johnson, Jr., and John Hanley, were detailed to guard teams one and one-half miles west from the camp, they suddenly discovered a band of Indians swooping down upon them. The little band resolved to sell their lives dearly. Between them and the Indians there were two knolls, a few rods apart. In the second ravine the little band gathered, but had hardly formed in line, partly covered by one of the small hills or knolls, when the Indians came in sight over the other hill. The Indians not seeing the thirty-two men fired at the teamsters and their teams. Company M immediately opened fire and continued firing until Black Bear, the Indian chief who was leading the Indians, received two bullets in his body, whereupon he wheeled his horse around and started on a wild retreat. The little band was then ordered to charge. Black Bear received two more bullets in his head and fell from his horse, to which his body was attached by a lasso. His horse and all his accoutrements of war were captured. When the chief wheeled his horse for a retreat all his warriors followed his example. The engagement lasted but a few minutes, and was so hotly contested that the Indians could not carry away their dead, which they always do if possible. They left

the body of their dead chief and three others on the field. The fortunate circumstance of killing the Indian chief saved this heroic little band from utter annihilation. Not one of them was killed and some are alive to-day to tell the tale. The locality of this battle is known as Dead Buffalo Lake. The battle was made the subject of an illustrated sketch published in Harpers Weekly.

#### THIRD BATTERY ARTILLERY.

Private—James Feely.

#### FALLEN HEROES.

The following comprises a list of those gallant soldiers who left their homes and took up their muskets for the defence of their country, never to return, who laid down their lives for the Union.

“It is sweet and honorable to die for one’s country,” should be engraved over the grave of each, in characters that will remain throughout all coming time and proclaiming to all future generations the nobleness of their sacrifice :

“The muffled drums’ sad roll has beat  
The soldier’s last tattoo;  
No more on life’s parade shall meet  
That brave and fallen few.  
On Fame’s eternal camping grounds  
The bivouac of the dead;  
No rumor of the foe’s advance  
Now swells upon the wind,  
No troubled thought of midnight haunts  
Of loved ones left behind.”

—Selected.

Edwin Frazier died at Chattanooga, Tenn., November 14, 1864.

John D. Ripley died at Nashville, Tenn., November 20, 1862.

Captain Robert P. Mooers, killed in action at Corinth October 3, 1862.

James A. McCabe was killed at the battle of Lake Shicott June, 1864.

Samuel B. Rolte died July 15, 1862, near Farmington, Miss.

Ambrose C. Smith died at Quincy, Ill., November 24, 1862.

Israel Baker died May 22, 1863, at Vicksburg, Miss.

William H. Bogart died at St. Louis August, 1863.

George S. Hutchinson died at Iuka, Miss., of wounds, September 27, 1862.

Henry Loomis died June 9, 1863, at Memphis, Tenn.

James Morrison died near Farmington, Miss., July 23, 1862.

Samuel Parks died October 29, 1862, at St. Louis, Mo.

Eugene E. Parmentor, died February 3, 1864, at St. Louis, Mo.

Robert T. Tift died of a gun shot wound, May 22, 1864.

Calvin H. Patchen died September 5, 1862, at Iuka, Miss.

Hardy Lewis, was killed at Tupelo, Miss., July 15, 1864.

Benjamin Bartholomew, died at Fort Ridgely, Minn., March 22, 1863.

Truman Butler, died July 15, 1863, by premature discharge of a cannon, at Fort Ridgely, on July 4, 1863.

Alden H. Chaffin, died October 23, 1864, at Memphis, Tenn.

James H. Carver, died at Jefferson City, Mo., November 1, 1863.

David F. M. Felch, died at Memphis, Tenn., October 1, 1864.

William N. Lent, died August 4, 1864, at Memphis, Tenn.

Oscar L. Tanner, was killed April 8, 1865, at Spanish Fort, Ala.

Adial Wilcox was killed in the battle of Nashville, Tenn., December 16, 1864.

Augustus Whitney, was killed June 10, 1864, at battle of Price's Cross Roads.

Simeon Gifford, died November 22, 1864, at Fort Wadsworth.

Henry Hollingshead, died December 2, 1864, at Fort Wadsworth.

Pliney Conkey, it is supposed, died in Milan prison in the State of Georgia.

Samuel Surface—killed—place unknown.

W. C. Sommers, killed in front of Vicksburg.

Roy Anderson, drowned at Big Stone Lake, on an Indian expedition.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### EARLY HISTORY OF MOWER COUNTY—REMINISCENCES.

The following chapter, relating to personal matters, is given to show the disadvantages under which the hardy pioneers procured the homes which now seems comfortable. Whatever of romance adhered to the lives of the hardy colonists, was abundantly compensated for by hard work. Contrast the journey of that devoted party through the roadless and bridgeless track between Chicago and their destination, with a company on a like journey to-day. Instead of weeks of labor and toil, privation and suffering, with cold and hunger, a seat is taken in a palace car at noon in Chicago, an unexceptionable supper is partaken of without leaving the train, the passenger retires upon a downy couch, and in the morning awakes to find himself at his point of destination in Southern Minnesota, having lost only half a day on the journey. Those who enjoy these blessings would be less than human if they were not filled with gratitude to these early

settlers, who paved the way, and actually made the present condition of things possible. At that time the confines of civilization were on the lakes; Chicago had but a few thousand people; Milwaukee was just beginning to be a village, and Dubuque was a mere vidette, as an outpost of civilization. There was nothing in the now great State of Minnesota, except the intrinsic merit of the location, to attract people from their more or less comfortable homes in the East, or on the other side of the water. The hope as to the future, which "springs eternal in the human heart," lured them on, and, although those that came were usually regarded by the friends they left, as soldiers of fortune, who, if they ever returned at all, would indeed be fortunate. They were a sturdy race, who realized the inequality of the struggles in the old States or countries, and resolved to plant themselves where merit would not be suppressed by traditions.

The men who came were, as a rule, enterprising, open-hearted, and sympathizing; they were good neighbors, and so, good neighborhoods were created, and they illustrated the idea of the true brotherhood of man more by example than by quoting creeds, with a bravery that never blanched before the most appalling danger; they nevertheless were tender, kind, and considerate, in the presence of misfortune, and their deficiency in outward manifestations of piety was more than compensated by their love and regard for humanity.

And if this meed of praise is justly due to the men, and it certainly is, what shall be said of the heroic women who braved the vicissitudes of frontier life, endured the absence of home, friends, and old associations, the severing of whose tender ties must have wrung all hearts. The devotion, which would lead to such a breaking away, to follow a father, a husband, or son, into the trackless waste beyond the Mississippi, where gloomy apprehensions must have arisen in the mind, causing hope to waver and the heart to sink with dread, is above all praise. The value of the part taken by the noble women who first came to this uninhabitable region cannot be overestimated. Although by nature liberal, they practiced economy, and often at critical times preserved order, reclaiming the men from despair during gloomy periods; and their example of industry constantly admonished them to renewed and strenuous efforts to save the west from a relapse into barbarism. This tendency was supposed to result from the disruption of social and religious ties, the mingling of heterogeneous elements, and the removal of the external re-

straints, so common and supposed to be so patent in older communities. Dr. Bushnell did not have a sufficiently extended view of the subject, for, in looking over the history of the past, it is found that in a nomadic condition there is never any real progress in refinement. Institutions for the elevation of the race must be planted deep in the soil before they can raise their heads in beauty and majesty towards heaven, and bear fruit for the enlightenment of nations. The evils of which Dr. Bushnell was so afraid are merely temporary in their character, and will have no lasting impression. What actually happens is this: At first there is an obvious increase in human freedom, but the elements of self-government everywhere largely predominate, and the fusion of the races, which is inevitable, will in due time create a composite nationality, or a race unlike as it must be superior to those that have preceded it. Even now, before the first generation has passed away, society in the west has outgrown the irritation of transplanting, and there are no more vicious elements in society here than in the East, as the criminal statutes will abundantly show. In this connection are given the personal experiences of the pioneers of Mower county. These articles are written or related by the pioneers, and when written, the compiler has in no case attempted to change or vary the style of the writer, it being the design to show the peculiarity of the writer, as well as to record the facts narrated. These reminiscences are interesting, and well worthy of perusal.

#### OLD SETTLERS AND NEWCOMERS.

The following sarcastic article from the pen of some correspondent who signed him-

self "W," appeared in one of the local papers in 1870. No names are mentioned, but old settlers will at once recognize the "drift of the writer's meaning":

"There has been considerable discussion in this vicinity in regard to the rights and wrongs of old settlers and newcomers. It has been said that old settlers have peculiar rights on account of first coming to the borders of civilization and preparing the first soil, building the first mills and school houses, improving the first roads and placing the first buildings on the ground selected for our town site, living meanwhile on ground nuts, leeks and pickerel, at the same time raising large families and fighting Indians. After all these improvements have been made, and they begin to live comfortably, the new comer is invited, through the agency of some periodical which has strayed to the borders, edited, published and deviled by some enterprising, enthusiastic, self-made man who is fit to be a member of Congress, to come and share with them the first fruits of their labors, and build up for themselves homes for life.

"Now, these things are all right and just as they are ordered by Providence. The old settlers are glad to have them come, and welcome them by opening wide their doors. The new comer has a right to come, and buy corner lots and broad acres, and build churches, and hire learned clergymen, and loan money for two per cent. per month, taking security on the old settler's homes, obliging them to give up the home in about two years, on account of a certain mortgage, and go further West to a new territory lately bought of the Indians, in order to pave the way for another company of new comers.

"Now, these things are all right—just as they should be. The old settler has no objection to the new comer—no objection to their building churches, hiring learned ministers, hiring their money and giving up their homes, and seeking new ones; but, as I understand it, they do object to being driven out by the new comer's tongue of vile slander. The class of new comers who take this method to rid themselves of the pioneers is very small, yet there can almost always be found in a county one or two who blow and blaze away with their mouths, or through some insignificant sheet, whose editor has not sufficient capacity to mind or comprehend the rights of anyone. Such men do much mischief and mislead very many good and honest citizens.

"This knowing individual is as wise as a serpent and as harmless as a dove in the eyes of the dear deluded people, who are made to believe, like Eve of old, that the fruit offered will do no harm, and a few eat thereof. But in time, if I mistake not, like our first parents, their eyes will be opened, if they should happen to overload their stomachs and then they will see their own nakedness. Then their first move will be to bruise the serpent's head, and he will be compelled either to flee to the mountains or go back from whence he came.

"Fellow-citizens, do not be deluded by the cunning nor the wisdom of any person who will willfully undertake to traduce the character of an old and tried citizen who has always treated you like a brother, and divided his substance with the suffering and unfortunate, who, like the good Samaritan, did not pass them by in their misfortune.

"Old settlers' and new comers' rights are equal. The old settlers claim nothing by inheritance or by the gift of the people which they are not willing to grant to the new comers. All this strife about our county officers who are good and true men, not all old settlers, who would not willfully commit a wrong, and yet they do not lay claim to perfection. I say all this strife and contention is caused by a demagogue office seeker, who is trying to build himself up, on his pretended downfall of others, and expects to ride into *high* office with flying colors mounted on a *bobtail* hobby manufactured by his own cunning intrigue and *indomitable* energy."

W.

PIONEERING—BY MRS. H. E. BISHOP.

From the Minnesota Pupil and National Gazette, January 1, 1870:

"Austin, in Mower county, is one of the sweet prairie towns of Minnesota. The people are intelligent and enterprising, we know, for everything denotes it. This, like all other towns, had a beginning, a time when its first settler "squatted," a time when stakes were set for a town, followed by a period of effort and anxiety for the increase of population, and the first families of pioneers of every town are objects of especial interest to all who are fond of historical research and reminiscence.

The pioneer of Austin, whose name I have forgotten, built his cabin there in 1855. I think it was some two or three years later when several other families squatted near, and when it was decided to "build a city," the honor of the name was accorded to Austin Nichols. The "first settler," the old man before alluded to, opened a saloon to

enrich himself and make poor his neighbors, and such was his hatred of everything good that he often declared if ever a Christian minister came there, that very day he should leave. He kept his word, but not as he himself had intended. He met death by violent hands the day that the first home missionary came to preach the glad tidings of salvation, and gather the scattered sheep into the fold, so surely will God visit the iniquities of the evil doer.

"About a dozen families were scattered here and there in the "openings," when a valuable acquisition was made to the social and business life, by the arrival of judge (in embryo) A. and wife. He was a lawyer of thorough culture, genuine sterling principle, his wife young, ardent, enthusiastic and accomplished. Coming from the older portion of the cultivated world, it was really pioneer life in earnest to her. But with a cheerful spirit a relish for the romantic, and a skillful hand, though untrained for the work before her, the log cabin home soon gave token of taste and transforming skill. We have stood in that veritable cabin, every log being of marked interest to these early occupants, each of the four corners having its own story, and its one window and door claiming special attention. But let us look in upon them in their initiatory lessons of domestic life. The husband had preceded the wife a few months, and the cabin awaiting her arrival stood mid the foliage of giant trees, had one window shoving sideways to open, being only one sash; the door was hung on wooden hinges, and the ceiling barely cleared the heads of the occupants. No lumber could be obtained and furniture was out of the

question. Stools were manufactured from dry goods boxes, and a bed of prairie grass was laid upon the floor. But the horror of snakes—the fear lest they should claim right also to the bed, was father of a resolve for an improved condition in this regard. A field of corn rustling for early harvest, was seen from the door, and Mrs. A. coveting the husks, presented herself at the cabin door of the owner, to be stared upon in wonder when she made known her errand. "Yes, she could have the husks by taking them from the ears." So for four successive days when her work was done in the house, in her new sun bonnet made for the occasion, she went to the corn field and worked at corn husking till rewarded by an ample supply. "Fortune favors the brave," and just then the loan of a bedstead was offered them. This was made of slabs, the bark still on, but with its snowy linen and white spread was a real luxury.

"A load of lumber also came to town and was secured for a partition where the rougher utensils of house-keeping could be stored. The old bits and ends, her ingenious hands put together for a corner what-not, where could be found some of the choicest reading in expensive binding. Between it and the bed stood the bureau substitute, made of a large dry goods box, only shelved and curtained, and on its top stood exquisite vases of flowers, cologne bottles and parlor ornaments in general. The luxury of a splint bottom rocking chair was about this time added to the comforts of the home, and not long after two wooden chairs. What more was wished for? What more could be desired? A carpet. The rough pun-

cheon floor cared very little about it, but the lady kept revolving in her mind the possibilities and improbabilities of gratification. One day an emigrant wagon stopped before the door, and by intuition, or otherwise, it came to her knowledge that a roll of rag carpeting was hidden in the legioned load. Of this, with the same spirit of determination which had thus far characterized her eventful pioneer life, Mrs. A. resolved to own more or less. And that same evening the two chairs were set upon the two yards of carpet which had that day changed hands; the home-made light stand, the central figure and on one side the wife sewed, while on the other the husband read aloud.

"Thus their days passed in busy, cheerful toil, and the evening in sweet domestic bliss, enlivened by occasional letters from far off Eastern friends. The nearest postoffice at this time was Winona, ninety miles away, and the traveling was done by oxen. So the arrival of a mail was an occasion of interest, and of joy or sorrow to each household. I have forgotten to say that the great charm in the appointment of the cabin were the splendid oil paintings, for Mrs. A. is a skillful artist withal, and whatever stranger entered the rude cabin stared in wonder at the contrast between the external and the internal, the latter giving such token of culture and refinement. Among other improvements, the window grew to double its original dimensions, through which the sun sent its rays in all the brightness and glory of a Minnesota autumn.

"In due time a small frame house arose by the side of the immortal cabin, but the heart still clung to its old love, and de-

lighted in reminiscences of pioneer days. Later a fine brick mansion with extensive grounds has risen in another part of the city, as a testimony of the industry and perseverance of these worthy pioneers. In this mansion, as a relic of the past, an honorable place has been assigned the splint bottom rocker, after having been treated to a coat of paint."

REMINISCENCE OF EARLY SETTLEMENT IN GRAND MEADOW TOWNSHIP, BY "R."\*

Among those who first settled in the immediate vicinity of Grand Meadow was Ole O. Finhart. A more honest or upright man we suppose never lived. Born about twenty miles from Christiana, Norway, in the parish of Valdals, and growing up to years of manhood he heard of the great facilities for procuring land in the newly settled region of the United States of America, and packing his "kiester," like many another son of old Norway, he set his face toward the setting sun to seek a new home which he might call his own. Arriving, finally, in 1848, in Dane county, Wisconsin, he abode there about four years, when, hearing of the fertile prairies of Minnesota, he, with fifteen others, heads of families, wended their way hither, he settling on section 7, in the present town of Frankford, where he still (1883) resides.

Of those accompanying him on this journey were Ammon Johnson Lindelien, Knud Nelson, Erland Olsen, Sever Olsen, Andrew Lybeck, Hans Anderson, Ole Juleson, Nels Severson, Grove Johnson, Ole Sevrud, or "Fiddler Ole," as he was commonly called, and the Honda families. A little later came

Gulick Ellingson. The only person then living in this vicinity was a Mr. Leathers.

Frankford village had a few settlers who came in the spring before, among whom were L. Patchin and G. Fryer. Two years later the places now occupied by Ole Loe and Arthur McNally were settled. Until that time Finhart was the farthest settler west until you reached the vicinity of Austin. For many years all grain and stock had to be taken to Winona to market, wheat selling for from 50 to 75 cents a bushel. \*

\* \* \* \* \*

During the spring of the year 1853 or '54, in the month of March, a Mr. Lyons, the father-in-law of Sylvester Smith, was trying to wend his way from Chatfield to Austin, where his son-in-law had a claim, and was doing business. He had found some one to bring him as far as Frankford village, but could not get anyone who dared undertake to pilot him to Austin; the farthest they would agree to take him was to Finhart's house, but go to Austin he must somehow. Arriving at Finhart's he begged and entreated him to pilot him over, at the same time offering to pay him three dollars and his hotel bill while there. There had been heavy snow during the winter, and now it had begun to melt and become slushy in places, but with a good crust in the morning. No road or track had been broken over the snow covered prairies during the winter. No one had occasion to travel from this settlement to Austin then, and Finhart had never traveled the road himself. He hesitated long, but finally, more for the friendly feeling he had for a fellow being in distress, than for the reward offered, he started one cold March

\*NOTE—This reminiscence was published in L. G. Moore's Grand Meadow Weekly Record, March 3, 1883.

morning on the journey as his porter and guide, the old man Lyon, not feeling able to carry his carpet bag so far in the snow. To travel with a team was impossible, to walk was a dangerous undertaking, for should they be caught in a storm they would certainly be lost; no trees, hills, or rocks to guide them, only the sun while shining, as a guide. Each putting on a pair of snow shoes, Lyon for the first time, they started on their journey across the barren, shining waste of snow. They got along quite well until about four o'clock, when the snow becoming soft they found locomotion very difficult; now they would sink down knee deep in a slough, then they must climb and toil over a huge drift, again they would fall and roll over weighted down with their burden, and heavy clothing; on they toiled past the lone tree; on and on, falling, rising, rolling, laboring along, till nearing a copse of brushwood, the old man worn and faint, said he could go no farther, and sank down in the snow to rest. The sun was fast sinking in the horizon, and Finhart well knew that to tarry long was death. He kept walking around, and once started off, and walked a distance to see if he could not find a track beaten in the snow which they could more readily travel, returning in a short time, and still having the carpet bag of Lyon's on his back. He was about to start in another direction, when Lyon began to beg him not to go, but to stay by him and not leave him again. Finhart now discovered a portion of a garment protruding from the carpet bag where it had apparently been pressed open, and called Lyon's attention to it, who said, "Yes, I must fix that," but did not do so;

but remarked at the same time, that there was a little money in there and it might drop out. Finhart thinking perhaps that this might be the reason the old man would not let him leave him, untied the carpet bag from his back and set it down by Lyon, who then appeared more satisfied. By and by he opened it, said he was afraid his money might have got disarranged, and took out a few pieces that had got out of a package, and finally took out and repacked sixteen hundred dollars in gold. This being done, and the sun being now set, Finhart again said he would seek a house or track, and Lyon being more satisfied, he started off again, going westward until finally he saw a light, a long way ahead. He at once returned to his companion, who said if that was the case he would try once more to travel. So Finhart took the bag again and off they started, reaching the shanty with some difficulty, where they prevailed on the occupant to hitch up a team and take them to Austin, it being but a short distance away. Lyon was thoroughly exhausted, and had they not found a house as they did, might have perished. How many men there are, who, had they been in Finhart's position, would ever laid that carpet bag down a second time where Lyon could get it. There alone, darkness surrounding them, out of sight of human habitation; Lyon, old, exhausted, feeble and way worn; Finhart, young, strong, fresh in the vigor of manhood, accustomed to the snow shoes, he only knowing that the goal was now within reach. Ah! well might Lyon thank God that he had an honest man for a guide.

BY REV. ALFRED CRESSEY.

In regard to early days in Mower county, my wife and I drove from Burlington, Racine county, Wisconsin, with a team of horses, to find a home in the Territory of Minnesota. We arrived at David Chandeler's farm, October 13, 1856. In the spring of that year, I was married to Miss Hannah Phelps, the daughter of Jerimiah and Margarett Phelps, who moved with the following families to Mower county, from Burlington, Wisconsin: Thomas Bormella, George and William Phelps, Diadamy and Mary Phelps, John Watkins and family, composed of eight sons and daughters. John Phelps had preceded them and was on the ground with E. Merry and family, David and John Chandeler, John Osborne and family, Caleb Stock and a Mr. Smith. The two last named composed the mill company, with John Phelps. Next came Welcome Osborne and his family, also Joshua Welch and Abijah Pinkham with their families. These with a Mr. McKee and Means comprised the neighborhood, in the winter of 1856-57. In the spring came Welcome Chandeler and Andrew Gemmel and their families. Before my wife and I arrived, Caleb Stock and Mary Watkins had spent their "honey moon." After their marriage John Phelps went back to Racine county, Wisconsin, and there captured a Lyon in the shape of a fair young wife, which made another very valuable addition to our young, but growing society. Then Timothy Gosley won the affections of Miss Ann Watkins. These three were the first on the list of marriages of Cedar City. Cedar City mill was pushed to completion and began sowing and grinding, in due time.

But alas! the June freshet took the pioneer mill down with its rapid current and our young city grew no more! and like many western towns ceased to live, and as yet has had no day of resurrection!

Several houses were erected by these families. The first covering for houses were indeed novel, hay, bark, rails and sod. Mr. Abraham Dickerson and father built the first good frame house and barn in the community. A school house was built on land owned by Caleb Stock, nearly opposite to where his house now stands. The logs and other timber were donated by the settlers, and it was built in the spring of 1857. This furnished an opportunity for the young school ma'ams, and it was almost certain that by the time the term of school closed, that some of the young men were deeply in true love with the teacher! And many of the gallant "boys" selected wives from among this class of girls. Diadamy Phelps was the first teacher; she afterward married John B. Niles, who owned Tefts mill property. Stephen and David Chandler fell into line, also Solomon Custer, John and Evan Watkins joined hearts and hands with the early school teachers of Cedar City.

The earliest birth, I think, was a son born to Mr. and Mrs. John Osborne. The second a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Cressey, and perhaps the third to Caleb and Mary Stock.

Thus the wilderness and solitary place began to blossom as the rose. The young have been taking the place of the old until to-day, if we ask, "Where are the fathers and mothers?" the sad answer comes back to us, "*They are not!*" I preached several of their

funeral sermons while I was stationed at Austin, four years ago—1880.

“O, wild is the tempest and dark is the night,  
But soon will the day break be dawning,  
Then friendship of yore  
Shall blossom once more,  
And we'll meet again in the morning.”

Perhaps it may be of interest to record the style of preparing bread stuff in those early times—no mills, no railroads and pretty nearly no food at times. Personally I went to Austin three times, with money in my pocket, to buy flour, and finally succeeded in getting eleven pounds of flour of old Mr. Brown of the Log Store. When corn had got into the milk the settlers took tin pans and punched holes through the bottom, and upon these circular graters managed to get enough corn grated to furnish bread for a time, till they could do better. Welcome Chandler hollowed out a log, put it in the ground, attaching a sweep similar to a well sweep and by means of a pounder, working like a druggist's mortar, succeeded in pounding out corn, which good Sister Chandler made into a first-rate Johnny cake. I know, for I helped eat them! Others resorted to their coffee mills and ground corn in them. This I can also testify to, for many a time have I eaten this kind in the days of yore, and only too glad to get it to eat.

The settlement saw close times financially, as the days one by one rolled away. Money loaners' consciences were not very clear methinks, either, as 3 and 4 per cent. per month was often taken, and I know some of them used to think it hardly paid to lend small amounts, for one told me so, and he is, I think, yet alive and may recognize this phraseology. Some of the first settlers lost

their homes, but most of them remain to them or to their children.

Among the first of the good men to break the “Bread of Life” were Revs. Beach and Loomis. The traveling preachers of that time were Revs. Mapes and J. L. Dyer, of the Methodist denomination. Rev. Dyer held a protracted meeting in the log school house, which his own hands helped to make. He had a voice which could be readily heard a half mile away. Most of the neighborhood were converted and a grand reformation followed. I did not like him, he was too rough; a sample of his talk, by way of introduction to me was: “You are going to hell, aint you?” However, I attended his meetings afterward, and now honor him for his work's sake. In those early times we were building and found it best to use oxen and carts for drawing logs, etc. One night I took my young wife and babe on one of these rude carts and went to meeting. I was not then a member of the church and had no authority for baptizing. But on going home, we had to cross the creek, and my wife with her babe in her arms slipped off the cart, but she held on to the babe with one hand and to the cart with the other, the oxen drawing her and the infant to the shore; and this I presume was the first baptism administered in this community, whether it was by strict immersion or not—judge ye! And I have never thought to ask the church whether this was lawful or not, but any way Brother Beach baptized the child, sprinkling over at Father Phelp's. And so I live to testify to the good honest work of Brother John L. Dyer, the pioneer preacher. God honored him by his brethren

of a frontier conference, sending him as a delegate to the general conference.

I joined afterwards under another preacher in charge. Such are a few of the notes in early days. Jeremiah and M. Phelps had four sons in our late war. Mr. Watkins two, Essler two, and Chandler one. So I think Cedar City and her people have done something for God and our county, worthy a place in the history of Mower county.

Yours Respectfully,  
ALFRED CRESSEY.

July 10, 1884.

EARLY DAYS AT FRANKFORD, BY MRS. MATILDA LAMB.

My father, James B. Glover, with his family of four children, three daughters and one son, moved to the then far west, from Skaneateles, Onondaga county, New York, arriving at Frankford, Minnesota, June, 1856. There were but few houses to be seen here at that time, but new arrivals were quite frequent and houses went up as if touched by magic hand. Where, in early morning would be a bare clearing, at night fall the gleam of a lighted candle could be seen from the windows of some rude yet cosy cabin home, showing the progress of a single day.

The first church in Mower county was built here the next year, the principals in the work being Elders Reeves and Waldron. The following winter it was formally dedicated as a house of worship. About the same time Frank Teabout built the first public hall. This was 24x60 feet. It was used that Christmas day and evening for a ball, over 100 couples being present. Mrs. Heidel, an aunt of the proprietor, and Henry Metzgar, provided the bountiful supper for the gay and happy company.

The company was composed of all classes, from Fillmore and Mower counties. Goodly numbers came from Austin and Chatfield. The music was furnished by our own home pioneer band, the greater part of whom were married men living near here. George Hunt, Samuel Metcalf, Hazard Titus and Gideon Sherman being among the number who constituted this band.

We had a good and large school at this point that winter. It numbered about seventy pupils. Professor Hotchkiss of Oberlin, Ohio, was the teacher, with myself as his assistant. At that time we had the county seat at this place and felt quite important. We talked about railroads, etc. But alas! how true the old adage came in our case—"Man proposes, but God disposes"; but in this case I think, with all due reverence, I can say that man did the most of the disposing. Austin had long looked with envy on our prosperity, and while they thought it an easy task to come to our public hall and enjoy a social dance with our young people, yet it was too great a hardship to come so far to transact business. So, not in the still hours of night, but at noonday, when the officers were taking their dinner and smoking their pipes in quietude, they came, stealing noiselessly into their vacant rooms and silently marched away with what comprised our county seat, minus the office buildings. Never did a newly inaugurated president, coming into office, decapitate officers with greater dexterity than did those fellows from Ausin release the Mower county officials of their official duties. But this all happened long, long ago, and myself with the balance, have long since forgiven (if not forgotten)

the wrong they perpetrated upon us. And if Frankford commenced with but few houses, she has certainly held her own remarkably well, as she still enumerates just about that number, notwithstanding lightning, fire, and Time's decaying hand have been busy in the years that have slipped rapidly away.

The old settlers will all recall the first years of the rebellion, by which time I had married Charles Lamb and bore two children. We made a visit back to old Vermont to renew old associations and call upon his friends. All along the way the demonstrations of war were manifested plainly to us. We were absent six weeks and upon our return things waxed still warmer, as if a long and bloody war must follow. Milton H. Pember, a relative of my husband, came home with us, and soon after enlisted, and was sent back as a recruiting officer. There was a loud call for troops on every hand, youth and old age finally being drawn into service. My father enlisted in 1861, being at that time over 51 years old, and was one of the many who never returned. Not a town of its size in the State sent out more and better brave men, than did ours; scarcely a youth or able bodied man was left at home to till the soil. Women and children, some of the latter too small to carry a bundle of wheat gladly entered the harvest field, and worked with a willing hand, though oft with a sorrowing heart, as they knew not how soon they might be called upon to mourn the loss of a father, husband or brother, from among the "boys who wore the blue in the far away South." Alas! how many never came back. Some, who were confined in foul prisons, when re-

leased were too ill, to travel, and were soon sleeping the long sleep of death in that distant land. Of such was, Joseph Clark, who, in company with his fellow comrade Francis Rafferty, was released, and the latter did all in his power to help him along, but he was too weak and helpless to travel, and finally died within a few rods of that terrible prison pen, and was there buried. His mother erected a monument over his grave after the war, and his remains still repose near the spot where his dear young life went out, as a sacrifice to his country. Many came back, battle scared and maimed, some left a limb on the bloody field of conflict as a trophy of the victory they finally won.

With each call for more fresh troops, the quota was promptly made up, until at last to avoid a draft, the town voted funds to hire substitutes, when men came in from other States, and soon the required number was made up from men, who, for a few hundred dollars, would go forth to do service. Our township also raised a bounty tax, the amount I do not now remember, but enough to raise the ire of some of the people, and they rebelled against paying it, but at last did so. These unhappy times lasted over four years before peace again dawned upon us, and for all Frankford has the name of being a "hard place," it has sent out as many good soldiers, good teachers, and good farmers as most towns of its size, and for this reason, if for no other, is entitled to a place in the history of Mower county.

EARLY DAYS, BY M. B. SLOCUM.

Four families of the Slocums—Roswell, Cook, Harry and Wesley, with their wives and children, together with their "flocks and

herds" migrated from Illinois to Minnesota in 1857. All together they constituted a pleasant caravan and often at night the camp was enlivened by music, song and dance. One night a party from this camp foraged upon a farmer's pumpkin field. This field was at the top of a very long and steep hill, at the foot of which was located the camp. The foragers had just got a fine supply of the golden pumpkins, each one about as large as a barrel, and got to the top of the hill when the farmer, discovering them, let his dogs loose and the foragers let go their spoils, foragers, pumpkins and all came rolling down into camp, making more noise in their tumbling than would an army with banners. The boys were gathered up in a party in good shape, but the pumpkins were all knocked into "pie." The father of the writer was not a "bloated bond holder," and so in the forepart of the winter of 1857-58, I had no boots or shoes for my feet and only a calico sun bonnet for my head, of which (the bonnet, I mean) I was very much ashamed, and when during the winter, times had seemingly improved, I was told I could have either a pair of shoes or a cap, I unhesitatingly chose the cap.

Our grain market was Winona, and the trip was often a very long and severe one. In the summer time on account of bad roads, it usually required a week to make the trip. Wagons and teams would frequently get "sloughed" sometimes nearly out of sight. Once I was one of a company who started for Winona before day light, worked hard all day and finally camped near a house three or four miles from home. One of the company, Wesley Slocum, who

had not been married long returned home and staid the first night.

Upon one occasion I remember my father had started with two loads of wheat and getting "stuck" at the Vandergrift Creek, I being only a mere boy and unable to shoulder a bag of wheat, stood in the creek with the cold water up to my arms, while my father placed the sacks on my shoulders, and I dumped them on the opposite side of the creek.

The prairie was fairly "seeded down" to rattlesnakes then, and as I always went barefooted in spring, summer, and fall, (sometimes in winter) I have many times felt the warm writhing of a snake under my bare feet, and probably the quickest movements of my life have been made under such circumstances. At night one question usually asked by my mother (who lived in great fear of some of us being bitten) was not, have you killed any rattlesnakes to-day, but how many have you killed? People now a days may call these snake stories, but what I have related is all true without any exaggeration.

When eleven years of age, I stood on the banks of Rose Creek, with my pants rolled to my thighs, and stood on a rattlesnake's rattles in such a way it could not rattle, and it bit me three times, high up towards the knee, and now after twenty-four years, the marks are plain to be seen, and even to this day I can feel a dull, heavy pain in my limb when thinking of a snake. It was noised about in 1858, that there was to be a meeting at the Padden school house on Sunday morning; and I being of a devoted turn of mind, wanted to go, and my good mother was willing to gratify my very laudable am-

bition, and immediately resolved herself into a committee of ways and means to provide me with apparel suitable to the day and occasion. Two grain bags, not very new, but nice and clean, were levied upon, and I sat down by my mother, so as to be handy for a pattern, I suppose, and that dear mother on that summer Sabbath morning, before she left her seat, made me a pair of pants out of those two grain bags, and I proudly wore them to church the same day!

BY FRANKLIN BEVIER, OF LEROY TOWNSHIP.

To illustrate the parable of the "Good Samaritan," I will relate an incident connected with early times in Mower county: There was a society of *Friends* in this section of the county, or Quakers, as they are sometimes called. Most of this sect lived at a town called Hespen, on what was then called "Looking Glass Prairie," about ten miles from Elliota; there were also others living in Iowa. The principal *Friends'* name was Tabor; he owned a steam plow and saw mill in the township, and the town was made up largely of this class. I must say that old Mr. Tabor and some of his associates were indeed "Good Samaritans." They had heard of our great want and distress, so they sent a delegation out over the country to see what aid could be given the destitute ones. They came this way and invited us to hitch up our teams and come down to Tabor's mill and get what flour we needed to live on. I was among the number who went down. I got flour, meal, beans, and all kinds of garden seeds, onions, and potatoes. I never saw a more generous hearted set of people in my life; they fed us and our teams without money and without price, saying if you ever

get able to repay us do so. Some brought old watches and guns and pawned them for food. Some days there were as high as sixty wagons there, most of them from Mower and Fillmore counties. The delegation of *Friends* travelled as far west as Austin, and distributed over \$1,500 worth of provisions to the needy ones. Such generous acts will surely not go unrewarded.

Some time during the month of July 1857, I think it was, perhaps 1858, there was one of the severest thunder storms passed over this township I ever witnessed. About 4 P. M., it commenced to rain and hail. Thick black clouds gathered and rolled in awful fury throughout the entire heavens. Loud peals of thunder rolled forth as a mighty artillery. The hail came thick, fast and of large size, doing great damage to crops. Soon the Little Iowa river began to deepen and broaden its flow; the rain kept falling in perfect sheets, as it were. Our log shanty stood on low ground, and soon the swollen stream commenced to threaten our home. It was eleven o'clock at night, and the children were all up stairs in bed. I saw the water was bound to sweep through the cabin, so I commenced to carry things up stairs. Soon the water filled the cellar full. The last trip I made up the stairs, the water raised after me, and I could not well get back. In a moment more the water was up to the joist. The family had now become greatly alarmed at the situation, and I told them we had got to get out as soon as we could. I made an opening by the stove pipe hole for all hands to climb out. The house being under the bluff it was not very far to land from the upper floor down to the fence surrounding the

house. The first thing was to help the children out. Miss M. Sample was with us at the time. We were soon all out on the roof. I then found that the water was three feet deep on the ground back of the house. So I had the older boys carry the fence around to the bank, and on that we all made our escape. It had partly ceased raining by this time, but the sky was now and then riven asunder by vivid flashes of chain lightning, which lighted the heavens with their black back ground even superior to Professor Edison's wonderful electric light. For a long half-mile we had to paddle through mud and water, to the nearest house on dry ground. Oh, that some good artist could have stood there at that moment and viewed the grand panorama! Think of one carrying the baby, another leading two other children, and we all being guided by the electric flashes. The excitement of that night's long, wild, stormy, hours will never be effaced from any of our minds.

BY WILLIAM M. LITCHFIELD.

I came to Mower county, in November, 1856, built my pre-emption shanty of logs, and covered it with sods. I was obliged to live in this for thirty days before I could pre-empt. I had a stove and cot on one side of the room and two feet of snow on the other side. About Christmas four of us went to the land office at Chatfield to pre-empt; on our way back we stopped at Brownsdale over night. It was very cold, and in carrying a pail of water in each hand without mittens, for about six rods, I froze the tips of my fingers. We arrived at Lansing, (then one house) at 2 o'clock P. M., and then had three miles to go yet. After we had gone a

short distance, a Minnesota blizzard struck us, and the points of our compass were gone from us. Our cutter was landed in a creek a half mile from the village. Two of my partners in this pleasure excursion, mounted the horses and rode ahead, and the balance following them, in two feet of snow. How many circles and semi-circles we made, I am unable to state. The men got off the horses to warm themselves, when the animals ran the way the wind and snow was blowing from. Fortunately for us, we discovered a log building, partly finished, but full of snow inside. We traveled around that about an hour, when we heard the voices of the two, who had gone in pursuit of the two horses. I started again, and soon found trees cut down, and then knew we were near some habitation. The storm having somewhat subsided, I saw a house some forty rods away, and turned back to give them the good word. One of the men had fallen from his horse, and was half buried in the snow. We urged him on and soon were before a cheerful blazing fire, and better still a pan full of doughnuts. We still had a mile and a half to go, and it was then 9 o'clock P. M. We again set out with light hearts and full stomachs, the horses ahead and two of us following. But we soon became tired and lagged and soon discovered a fallen tree I was familiar with, and knew we was but a short ways from home. The other men were far past their home, but by great exertion I overtook them. In a short time they would have been past home and beyond all hope. I believe exuberance of feeling and thankfulness to God was duly felt and expressed that night in the log house, where

fifteen souls slept the sleep of thankfulness.

In 1859, I drifted to my present residence, which at that time consisted of a log cabin, 14x16 feet square, with floor made of plank, hewed from logs. I can say with pride, my wife and I never enjoyed ourselves better than in that little old cabin home, for it was *our first home*.

In 1862, although nearly a hundred miles from the Indian massacre at New Ulm, we were much excited here. Our first alarm was from one of our near neighbors, who woke us at midnight. He had his family with him, and for defense an old musket without any lock, and an old shot gun, all covered with rust. The roads were crowded with teams and families fleeing from the west, dependent on settlers about here for their food. But this scare soon passed over and we have, as the years have rolled by, whitened our locks, and are now residents of a prosperous community.

BY LAWRENCE DIGNAN.

Being requested to write a reminiscence for the Mower county history, I know no better subject to write on than my early farming in this county, and for the benefit of those that come after me will tell you that I came to this county in June, 1856, with my parents. Was then 16 years old. The spring of 1857 my father was taken sick and I was sent to Spring Valley, about forty miles distant, to purchase seed wheat and oats. I bought twenty bushels of wheat at \$1.50 per bushel, twenty-five bushels of oats at sixty cents per bushel. I started home with my load feeling very much like a man, if I was small and young, not thinking that on my arrival home that I was to re-

ceive the greatest shock of my life, but such was the case, for on entering the settlement I met a neighbor (Wm. Rutherford,) who was sent to meet me and tell me the sad news of my father's death before I reached home. Then being the oldest of the family my farming commenced. I sowed the twenty bushels of wheat and twenty-five of oats. The spring of 1857 I planted fifteen acres of corn and some potatoes. The crops did well up to the first of August, or about that time. We then had a hail storm that completely destroyed everything that was growing. I thought that by mowing the wheat that we would get enough for seed, so I paid a neighbor \$10 for cutting it with a scythe, and got it threshed by a party that was bringing a threshing machine into the country that fall. I paid \$5 for threshing and had twenty-five bushels when threshed. This was all that we saved out of our first crop, with the exception of a few potatoes. Then, kind reader, we had to settle down to corn bread in good earnest for the next year. In the spring of 1858 I sowed my twenty-five bushels of wheat of the crop of the previous year, and had but little better success. The season was so wet that the crop was nearly a failure, but I got thirty-five bushels this year of wheat, and thought before it was threshed that there was a great deal more. One of my neighbors, (Thomas Gibson,) was going to thresh a grist and I thought I would thresh some too. He threshed his with a flail; not knowing how to use a flail, I had to do the next best thing. My brothers and sisters and myself took the grain by the handful and whipped it out on the sides of a

wagon box, letting the grain fall in the box. In that way we threshed five sacks or about ten bushels of wheat, cleaned it in the wind and then started to High Forest to mill, about thirty miles. Mother made a shake-poke to last me until I got to the mill; and for fear that you do not know what I mean by a shake-poke I will tell you. She shook the meal bag and made me a corn cake out of the last that was in it. When we got to High Forest we found the dam was gone, and had to go to Rochester, fifteen miles further. Mr. Gibson was with me—he had a grist, too. Both our shake-pokes were played out the first night at High Forest. Next morning we got into a potato patch, pulled some and roasted them and found them very fine roots. We went on to Rochester and got our grist ground and sold some wheat to the miller. We bought some bread and butter and had a big dinner and started home the third day. I was four days making the round trip to mill with my first grist of ten bushels of wheat, which it took me two years to raise. The third year, or the year of 1859, I did better. I raised 350 bushels of wheat from about twenty-five bushels of seed. Since that time I have not had to fall back on the shake-poke. It surprises me to hear people of the present finding fault with the hardships of the present time in Minnesota. If they were down to the extremes now that the early settlers were, they would know something about pioneer life. The first winter that my father lived in Mower county he went to Austin for a sleigh. He had a yoke of oxen. The snow was about four feet deep. The sleigh was not finished. A load of dressed hogs came in from Iowa,

and he bought one that weighed 200 pounds for \$50. He hitched the chain in the hog's leg and hauled him home through the snow, and the whole family, as well as some of the neighbors, thought it was very nice pork. Later on, when times were harder, we had to haul goods for a living. It would be amusing to a Minnesota dude of the present day to see us sitting around a camp fire with our wagons stuck in the mud, with more mud on our clothes than would be considered good for our health at the present day, eating a supper of mush, made of corn meal and water, and using a chip for a spoon. He (the dude) would think that it beat eating pie with a fork all to smash. A word to my lady readers of the present and I am done. Young ladies of the present day, if you got a look at the wedding outfit of the average young lady of pioneer days in Minnesota you would really laugh yourselves tired. A gingham sunbonnet, a nice calico dress with buttons whittled out of wood and covered with pieces of the dress, a nice set of crinoline made of pieces of grapevine, and if they had shoes they wore them, and if they had none they went without; and while you of the present day go off to Chicago or Washington on the cars for your wedding tour, they, like Precilla, the Puritan maiden, if they did not ride home on a bull, they in lots of cases rode home behind a yoke of oxen, and lived, loved and were happy.

MY FIRST TRIP TO MINNESOTA—BY MRS.  
GEORGE BAIRD.

I started from Sun Prairie December 1, 1857, one of the loveliest days I ever saw, by wagon to Madison, took the cars from

there to Moskoda, that being as far as the cars ran then, about 80 miles; I staid there over night; was awakened at 4 in the morning to take the stage; I had to call for a match and candle, as there were no matches, and I only had about an inch of candle on a block of wood, and four nails driven around it to keep it in its place, when I went to my room the night before, but I soon dressed myself and went down stairs, and when I got to the parlor the floor was covered with men sleeping, rolled up in blankets or buffalo robes, or anything they could get, for the hotels were all so crowded at that time, but I managed to pick my way through and got to the door, where an old-fashioned stage coach was in waiting for us, and as I had never ridden in one I thought there might be some fun about it. The ground was covered with snow as I had discovered when I first awoke, for the foot of my bed was covered with snow through a broken window, but we started on our trip, 7 men, I the only woman and two canary birds; it continued to snow all day; nothing worthy of note that day only we lost our way and had to go back 10 miles to get on the right road. The next morning we were on our way at 4 o'clock and stopped at 7 for breakfast, and as the snow was still falling our progress was slow, for we were near the bluffs and it was very difficult to find the road. We had not gone far before we were all tipped over, I coming down on my side, and the driver asks, is there anyone hurt. I replied not unless my birds are killed. The men thought they were of little account, but we all clambered out of the door of the stage, it being on the top as the stage was lying on its side,

and they spread a buffalo robe on the snow for me to sit on while they tipped the stage back, and when they got us back into the stage it seemed as if I should freeze, for the soft snow was nearly waist deep by that time, and the driver said if we tip over again (and we probably shall) you, meaning me, must not get out, but I protested against that. In the course of the day, I could not tell how many times we did tip over, as he could not see a single track, and he dared not go too near the bluff or we might go over that, so he kept off as far as he dared to, and we often went over but they would not let me get out again, and I must say it was much better tipping the stage back than when it went over first, and we did not know where we were going to, for the stage was on wheels all this time, till this day at noon we got on runners. As we got near the Wisconsin river it was very bad for the snow was very deep, the railroad was graded and the ties down when we got there, but it was so rough on the low lands near the river that he could not drive his horses, so I had to walk over a mile on the ties and cross a creek of running water on a plank laid across the bridge. I was asked to ride across the bridge on a wheelbarrow, the way they took our trunks across, but I thought I had rather walk, so I started but could not keep my feet on the icy plank, so the man who took our things over came to me and going behind me and holding me by the shoulders kept me on the plank all right. Then we came to the Wisconsin river and it was filled with floating ice and only an Indian canoe to cross in, three of us at a time, and dodge the floating ice. I thought we should never get over alive but

we did. After crossing we took a stage for Prairie du Chien and arrived there that night, I think, after tipping over three times, and we were very cold, as it had grown so cold and the snow blowing so hard. When we reached Prairie du Chien we had to stay there till Monday morning. The agent started out on horseback with the mail but was obliged to return on account of the extreme cold and heavy snows. On Saturday they started with the mail again on horseback, but was obliged to turn back again. Sunday was very cold and cloudy.

The seven men by this time had decided to turn back to their homes and wait till spring to complete their plans, and tried to persuade me, to turn back to my fathers house, but I said no, I am going on. It was some time before anybody could tell me which road to take to get to Austin, Mower county, Minnesota; but a gentleman was kind enough to go over to McGregor on foot, to inquire the best possible route, and came back Sunday evening, telling me I had better cross the river and go by the way of West Union, Iowa; the stage would leave McGregor at 8 o'clock, Monday morning. So on Monday morning I started, and when we reached the river, the horses were so smoothshod, they could not stand on the ice, and the driver said he would have to take them back and get another span of horses; I told him, I was afraid the stage would not wait for me, and I could walk across and carry my birds, and he might follow with my baggage and I would hold the stage till he came, and I started and walked across on the ice. There were large cracks in the ice, and I was very much alarmed lest it let me in, but I

got across and found myself about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the tavern and the snow very deep and no road, but I plodded on, and when I reached the tavern, more dead than alive, I found the stage had been gone 15 minutes. I felt somewhat discouraged and asked the tavern-keeper when the next stage would start and he told me, day after to-morrow. I could stand it no longer and indulged in a good, hearty cry. He told me he would make it as pleasant as possible for me, but what was the comforts of a tavern in those days. A very small room without fire or any of the comforts of home, but there I stayed till Tuesday, when the stage agent came in a cutter and said if I wished to ride a part of the way that night and stop at a farm house, and not start till after breakfast I could go. So I started again. This was the only comfortable ride I had after leaving the cars. We stopped at the farm house, had a good warm breakfast the next morning before getting into the stage, which, from here the rest of the way, was a long, open sleigh. We arrived at West Union, Wednesday evening. Thursday morning at 4 we started again, and the roads were so badly blocked, we could with difficulty get along, being compelled to walk the horses most of the way, and it was so bitterly cold all the time. I found when I got to West Union that I had not got money enough to carry me through my journey, although I had started with \$40, and my husband had gone the fall before for \$19 the entire trip. But the agent was very kind, and after allowing me enough money to pay my breakfast, supper and lodging with no dinner, he allowed me to pay the balance of \$6 when I got to Austin.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, I traveled from 4 in the morning till 9 and 10 in the evening without any dinner, our fare being mostly salt pork, bread, black coffee without milk or sugar, and no butter most of the time. My second day from West Union, we stopped at a log house for breakfast, and there was only one room, and the floor covered with sleeping forms rolled up in blankets, but at the call to breakfast they arose, and I was assigned a place at the table and had to sit on the edge of the bed to eat. After breakfast the mail bag was brought in and emptied on that bed, and what letters were due that place were taken out and the bag locked up again after putting in some mail that was found behind the bed. After the last mail had been opened in that same way and these letters had slid behind the bed, it was no wonder our letters were so long in reaching their destination. We were soon on our way again, and here was the first time I found anyone who knew where Austin was, it being a new town, but I had it mapped out, before I started, and knew I was on the right road, although I could not go up the river as my husband expected me to go, as that was frozen over.

When I think back on those three days of travel in the coldest time I ever saw, with the snow away over the tops of the fences, and blowing so terribly you could not see the two lead horses in an open sleigh. With a straw bonnet and a lace veil, and not a thread of wool in my clothing, it makes me wonder why I did not perish, for it was my first trip on a prairie or outside a city, and I knew nothing of the severity of the northern winters. My last day before

reaching Austin was perhaps the most dangerous, for we had new horses and a new driver and he could not find the road half the time. The snow blew so hard it filled up the track, and we were on an eighteen-mile prairie with not one single hut or cabin and only one tree, and that was called the lone tree. There were four men in the stage and I the only woman all the way through. One of those men knew the peril and danger of being lost on a prairie, but I knew nothing of that. I was young and had always lived in the East, and was in blissful ignorance of what had so often happened to the prairie traveler, and I could not believe for one moment that there was any danger. I said we have four horses and we can get on their backs and find a house somewhere at least, but the men were more frightened, and one complained a great deal, exclaiming, "We shall be lost! We shall be lost!" but the stage driver told him to keep still; if the only woman we had was not frightened why should he be, but he said she don't know, and I did not. We kept on, with two men getting out and walking on ahead of the horses, and sometimes seeing a faint trace of the road. Towards dark we came upon a log cabin and then the shouts went up from thankful hearts, for that was within a mile and a half from Austin, and we knew we were on the right track. When we came to the door of the cabin the windows and door were filled with heads, all anxious to see who we were, for it was the first team they had seen since the big storm, and they were surprised to find we had been so long on the road, and had a woman on board, too.

We got into Austin all right, and had the

best accommodations I had seen since I left the Mississippi river, but it was the coldest they had ever seen. It was so cold in the morning that the comb I was combing my hair with, froze in my hair, and I had to go down stairs by the fire to thaw it out. After breakfast I started on my last days' trip, for my husband was at my sister's, and that was about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from town. It was a very cold day, but the sun shone and that made it seem so nice and pleasant. The snow was over the top of the fences, and a crust on the top hard enough to bear up our horses and sleigh. We arrived without further trouble on Sunday, December 16th, being just 16 days since I left. I almost forgot to tell you that the birds came through all right, and sang all the way, the driver saying it cheered him on to hear the birds singing so happily. But the first warm day the last of March, I hung him out at the door, and a woodpecker picked him in his eye and he died in my hand. My first visit was worthy of note, so I will tell it to you. One week after I arrived here we made a visit to a neighbor, and the snow was so high that we

made the trip on snow shoes, 6 feet long and a little wider than our foot, and a strap across the foot to hold it on by. It was a new and novel way of visiting for me. At another time the same winter we made a visit to the same place, about one mile from where we lived, and it commenced to snow before we went home. And when we started for home in the evening we got started in the wrong direction and got lost. We went about two miles and found we were lost, and the snow blew so hard it covered our back tracks so we could not find the way back, but we called as loud as we could, and the dog barked so we got the direction of the house, and started back, and after wading through very deep snow we got back where we left, in a sad plight. My toes were frozen, and we were nearly exhausted. We staid there all night, and went home next morning. I could tell of many more exciting times had I the time, of how the Indians used to visit us in our log cabin home, and the time when we had the Indian war. I was then alone with my three boys, my husband in the army and south at the time.

## CHAPTER XV.

## OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION.

Among the various societies and associations known to the American people, perhaps none is of a more enjoyable character than that of a band of pioneers organized, as an "Old Settlers Society." These organizations have come to obtain almost universally, with the people of both the eastern and western states. These provide for stated reunions of old settlers and are doing much for the preservation of historical events, and as such are indeed invaluable, especially to the generations yet to come. The lessons of the past teach us the road to sure success in the future. The fires of patriotism, the love of country or of home, is greatly strengthened by a narration of such important events as tend to stir the blood or quicken to life those divine affections in mankind. Many a youth has chosen the life of a soldier from reading the accounts of the great conflicts engaged in by an Alexander, a Hannibal, a Napoleon, a Wellington or a Washington. Patriotism has been induced and fostered by reading of the deeds wrought

out by the sublime utterances of Patrick Henry, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln. The love of home, of kindred and friends have been quickened oftentimes by listening to the tales told by an aged father or grandfather, especially of that pioneer father who toiled to give to his posterity the priceless boon of a home of plenty and of peace, of refinement and love for God and a due respect for humanity.

The pioneers, in gathering together in these annual re-union occasions seem to live life over again, as it were. Their eyes sparkle again, as in their prime days, as the fading reminiscences of other earlier days are recalled. Here mingles together the old and the young, and alas! how varied are the emotions which bestir their every heart. Some are found almost at the foot of life's rugged hill—just where their sun begins to dip into the great unknown eternity. These look back and up the path which they have trod, while others who have just attained the summit, gaze down into the valley of tears

with many a hope and fear, with their heart strings all untried, and by listening to the story of early days and pioneer hardships are nerved, as it were, for the remainder of life's conflict, and in this way are enabled to "tread the paths their fathers trod." At these old settlers meetings memory asserts its strongest sway; the thin veil that 'shrouds the gloom and mist of the past is torn asunder, and the long forgotten scenes of early days, come teaming up as one grand drama. The toils and sacrifices coincident with pioneer times are all reviewed, midst a strange commingling of tears and heart aches, together with joy and light heartedness provoked at the recital of some ludicrous story known among the first settlers. These re-union days bring to mind, perchance, the time when an old settler stood beside the bedside of a loved and cherished, but dying wife—one who, in the days of her youth and beauty, was asked for her heart and hand, and in the nobleness of her true womanhood spoke words not unlike these: "Whither thou goest I will go, and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God shall be my God; when thou diest I will die, and there will I be buried; the Lord do so to me and more also, if aught but death put us asunder." Perchance the memory of some dear brave boy, who was stricken down in the vigor of his youth, comes up before a sorrowing father and heart-broken mother; or the recollection of a gentle daughter, who passed away in all her beauty; or it may be the thought will come stealing over some one of the pioneer band, of a prattling babe, who folded its weary eyes in the "dreamless sleep," and by

its early taking off has left an aching void in the bosom of its mother and a sorrow in the life of its father.

'There are memories dear old memories,  
That the heart can ne'er forget;  
E'en though life hath lost its brightness,  
And hope's sun in clouds hath set.  
These dear old memories of the summer of our  
lives,  
Some freshness holds.  
And the charms they weave around us,  
They never, NEVER CAN GROW OLD.'

The first step taken in Mower county toward the organization of an old settlers' association was in June, 1884, at which date the following was published in the local papers of the county:

"There will be a re-union of the Old Settlers of Mower county, at Austin, June 12, 1884. All those who settled in the county in and prior to the year 1858, are eligible to membership, and all who settled in the State within the time mentioned, are cordially invited to participate in the entertainment and banquet.

PROGRAMME.

At 10:30 A. M. the association will meet in the hall in the new court house, where the exercises will consist of:

- 1st. Addresses by Judges Ormanzo Allen and Geo. M. Cameron.
- 2d. Music.
- 3d. Five-minute volunteer speeches.
- 4th. Music.
- 5th. Annual election of officers, and other business.

Gov. Armstrong, of Albert Lea, has agreed to be present and will probably make a short speech.

- 6th. Banquet at the Mansfield House, at 1:30 P. M.

We expect to have an enjoyable time, and we want all the early settlers of the county, as far as possible, to be present.

The only expense will be the membership fee of \$1, which will entitle the member to a ticket to the dinner for himself and one person, provided that person be a member of his family. This fee goes to paying expenses of the banquet, etc.

Additional tickets for the dinner will be issued to such members of families and friends of the old settlers as may be invited, at 50 cents each. Send your money to C. H. Davidson, Austin, secretary and treasurer. All those who have already joined the association, but have not paid the fee, should see to its payment immediately. We must know, *without delay*, how many plates to engage for the banquet.

Every old settler who sees this circular, should accept it as a special invitation to be present." [Signed]

HON. JOHN FRANK,  
THOMAS GIBSON,  
C. H. DAVIDSON,  
J. B. YATES,  
C. J. FELCH,  
THOMAS VARCO,  
Committee.

#### THE FIRST RE-UNION OCCASION.

The following extract from an account of the first meeting of the Mower county Old Settlers Association, was published in the local papers at Austin :

The old settlers of Mower county, those who entered Minnesota previous to its becoming a State, 1858, held its first re-union Thursday, June 12, 1884.

The day was all that could have been desired, cool and sunshiny.

About 11 o'clock in the morning the exercises were commenced in the new courthouse hall, there being a large attendance of old settlers and friends, with a short address of welcome by the president of the Association, Thomas Gibson, of Lansing. He said, in effect, he should have shrunk from accepting the position he occupied, had he known what a large and respectable assembly would have assembled on this occasion.

He was proud to see so many old settlers present. He hoped all would have a good time; that our posterity after us would meet from year to year and celebrate the day of our organization; and that when the good Lord calls us, He will require no more of us than that we have been citizens of Mower county.

Prayer was then offered by Rev. S. G. Lowery, an old settler of this vicinity, now in his 85th year.

A song, "Altogether," was then sung by Mrs. L. A. Sherwood and Mrs. C. H. Davidson; Mrs. D. B. Johnson, the first organist in Austin, presided at the organ.

Judge Ormanzo Allen, then gave the historical address, which we give entire :  
*Venerable Men and Women of the Old Settlers Association of Mower County:*

Permit me thus to address you, for all of you have come down to us from a former generation, through trials and hardships incident, and only incident, to pioneer life.

It is meet after a quarter of a century's pilgrimage together as neighbors and friends, that you come in here in social intercourse in this temple built by your own toil and dedicated by you to justice and right, and here tell a story or sing a song to cheer each other along life's rugged pathway.

A retrospect of the past 25 years shows not all joy, nor yet does it show all sorrow. Our joys have been many, our sorrows also have been many.

As a brother, or sister, or father, or mother, or husband, or wife, or child, or dear friend, has sunk down in life's conflict, you have paused to sympathize and weep with each other, or as success and victory have crowned a neighbor's endeavors you have hastened to rejoice and exult with him.

If the lean hand of poverty has at times been stretched out to us, as we have come along the way; if trials and disappointments have overtaken and beset us upon every side; if we have not attained unto all that which we have desired we may, and can say, we are not discouraged, we are not cast down.

The history of Mower county may not have the glamour of ancient, forgotten Greece. The history of Austin may not be that of haughty, imperial Rome, the mother of three dead civilizations; yet Austin, yet Mower county, has a history full of vitality, full of energy, full of the present progressive, living, growing age, of which no Minnesotian need be ashamed. It is only when we contrast the present with the past that we bring out and see fully the great change that 25 years have wrought in the material prosperity of Austin and of Mower county.

So slow indeed has been our progress at times, the heart has grown sick and weary and tired, and wondered when the end would come to this slow and wearisome journey. Be not disheartened, be not discouraged, my neighbor, be not weary in well doing. It takes toil, it takes time, to found and build

towns and cities; it takes toil, it takes time, to form townships and organize counties. It takes many houses to make a town or city; it takes many farms to make a township, to make a county and a state.

Phillips tells us, that as he stood upon the ruins of the palace of the Cæsars, he saw growing there the tiny plants that had let down one after another their small rootlets and cast down to the abyss below, those stupendous and massive rocks, which had withstood for centuries the earthquake shock. Again, I say, my neighbor, my friend, be not weary in constant and persistent and high and holy endeavor; the reward will be by and by.

The history of Mower county is a history as yet in its plastic, moving, formative state; partly written and partly in traditions, about which there has been, and is, a great deal of controversy.

The territory embraced in Mower county, prior to 1853, was parts of Dakota and Wabasha counties. The line of boundary between said counties running about one mile west of the city of Austin. Wabasha lying east and extending to Mississippi river, Dakota county lying west and extending to the Missouri river. In this year (1853) the territory now embraced in Mower county was set off to and constituted a part of Rice county.

In February, in the year 1855, Mower county was defined by the legislature, and on the first day of March of that year the county was organized and named in honor of John E. Mower, an early settler of the State of Minnesota, residing in Washington

county, and a member of an early territorial legislature.

In the year 1853 the territory embraced in Mower county was surveyed into townships and sectionized. Prior to that time, and as for that matter for several years thereafter, Mower county was the home and hunting grounds of the wild Indian, and the early settlers of Mower county have seen them in their native independence as they have been by scores in their teepes and wigwams along the Cedar river; and many of you have seen them in their native dependence as they have begged for bread in your houses, where they had entered unannounced and uninvited, and you have heard their simple language.

In the fall of 1852 some claims were taken along the Cedar river by trappers from Iowa, but were abandoned in the following winter. In the fall of 1853, near where Oakwood cemetery now is, a man by the name of Hunter Clark settled, and built there the first log house in Mower county. This was followed in the same fall by the coming and settlement of Austin Nichols, who built a log house just back of where Judge Cameron's house now stands. Austin was named in honor of this first settler on the town plat of Austin. It is unnecessary to say that Austin Nichols soon moved west. That same fall, and the beginning of the year 1854, other settlements were made along the Cedar River and Deer Creek and Iowa River, Lewis Patchin being among the number of settlers along Deer Creek.

In the latter part of the year 1854, and in the year 1855, settlers began to come in from Iowa and Wisconsin, among whom were

Alanson B. Vaughan, who settled at Lansing; John Robinson, who settled near High Forest; John Tiff, who settled eight miles south of Austin; Chauncy Leverich, who bought out Austin Nichols; Abraham S. Lott, C. H. Huntington, James and Return B. Foster, who all settled four or five miles south of Austin along the Cedar River.

On the 14th day of September, 1855, the first land was taken and proved up on by Chauncy Leverich, Jeremiah B. Yates and Velorous P. Lewis.

Sylvester Smith, Henry and William Baudler, and many others, well known to you, came this same year, 1855.

During the year 1856 hundreds came to Austin and Mower county, and among them your obedient servant. So that at the close of the year 1856 there were estimated to be 600 people in Mower county, and about 100 people in Austin.

The first deed for the conveyance of real estate in Mower county is now on file at the office of the Register of Deeds for Goodhue county, in the city of Red Wing. Many deeds were filed and recorded in Houston county, and a few years ago William Carey Snow, then Deputy Register of Deeds for Mower county, went to Caledonia and copied such deeds upon our records.

On the 17th day of April, 1856, there might have been seen some of the tallest running and driving for Frankford, the then county seat of Mower county, that was ever witnessed in the northwest, on the part of J. B. Yates and V. P. Lewis, party of one part, and Washington Mason and Chauncy Leverich, party of the other part, to see who should file for record the first plat of Austin.

By the judges stationed at Frankford it was declared that Yates and Lewis came out two lengths ahead. At any rate their plat of Austin was filed two hours before Leverich's and Mason's plat was filed. But Mason always insisted that although he walked and ran the entire distance he would have come in ahead had he known fully what was up.

In the year 1856 the total assessment of Mower county was about \$500,000. Today it is nearly \$6,000,000. The tax levy in 1856 was about \$4,000. Now it is over \$100,000. In the year 1857 the valuation had increased to about \$1,000,000, and the amount of taxes levied to about \$7,000.

In 1856 there were no church edifices, no school houses, no bridges, all was formative and new. But in the year 1857 the cross of Christ, towering o'er the wrecks of time around whose sacred head sublime, has gathered all the light of sacred story, was brought in and set up in Mower county.

The first minister that ever preached a sermon in Austin was the Rev. Mr. Mapes, then stopping for a short time near Brownsdale. Following close on to this was a sermon by the Rev. Mr. Phelps. These sermons were both by Methodist ministers, and both preached in the Snow & Wilbour hotel. Rev. Stephen Cook, John F. Cook's father, a Congregational minister, was the third person to preach in Austin. He preached during August, 1856, and the succeeding few months in a small house, then used as a school room and on the spot where Thomas Riley's dwelling house now stands. During the winter of 1856-7 Rev. E. F. Gurney and Stephen Cook preached in private houses about town as they were invited. Mrs.

Leverich, whose husband had been killed a short time before, entertained the congregation occasionally. The murder of her husband, Chauncy Leverich, took place in the latter part of August, 1856, at a saloon on the spot where D. B. Smith's office is now located, and he was buried just back, and at the corner of the saloon. This was the first murder committed in Mower county. The parties committing the murder were Horace Silvers and William Oliver. This brought on the first law suit ever had in the county. Silvers and Oliver were both fined, the first \$20, and the latter \$10. The cause was prosecuted by John Tift and Levi Watrous, and defended by Everest and Allen, the parties being arrested and prematurely brought to trial. Leverich did not die until 5 or 6 days after the affray, which gave the counsel for defendants (not having any good reasons to assign why their clients should not be fined for a breach of the peace) to read the court and audience some long lectures on the evils of intemperance and liquor traffic.

The first Board of County Commissioners were Phillip Howell, George White and William Russell, who were appointed by the territorial authorities. On the first Monday in April, 1856, the County Commissioners met in the log store of David Frayer, of Frankford, and by a vote, of which they never made any record, located the county seat at Frankford, and appointed Timothy Chapman, Register of Deeds, G. D. Sherman, Sheriff, Lewis Patchin, County Treasurer, Moses K. Armstrong, Surveyor, and C. J. Felch, Probate Judge, who held their offices until January 1, 1857.

In the fall of 1856, there was the first election ever held in the county. This was for legislative and county officers, in which the east and west sides of the county were sharply arrayed against each other. The west side put into the field what was called the people's ticket, without reference to any party lines, and was composed of: John M. Berry, for Representative, now Judge Berry, of the Supreme Court; Rufus L. Kimball, for Register of Deeds; J. B. Yates, for Sheriff; S. P. Bacon, County Treasurer; N. P. Todd, Surveyor; Wm. B. Spencer, George H. Bemis, and Horace Blodgett, County Commissioners; A. B. Vaughan, Judge of Probate; Dr. O. Allen, Coroner. The east side, or union ticket, was composed of: Thos. H. Armstrong, for Representative, now living at Albert Lea; W. B. Covill, Register of Deeds; J. S. Pierson, Sheriff; G. P. Covill, County Treasurer; Moses K. Armstrong, Surveyor; Wm. B. Spencer, of LeRoy; C. F. Hardy, of Red Rock; and Naaman Goodsell, of Frankford, County Commissioners; C. J. Felch, Judge of Probate; J. Pierson, Coroner.

The people's, or west side ticket, was elected by a majority of 46 votes out of 374 votes cast, with the exception of Todd, of LeRoy, who was defeated by 71 majority. Heretofore the east side held all the offices except 3 minor ones. But in this election the west side had gained the balance of power. And on the assembling of the new Board of County Commissioners in January, 1857, they could not find that the county seat had ever been located anywhere, there being no record of such location. Hence the Board at once proceeded to locate the

county seat, and after a long and exhaustive investigation of the matter, concluded that the best interests of Mower county would be subserved by locating the county seat at Austin; out of which location and removal of the county seat grew what has since been known in history as the Frankford war, in which war J. B. Yates was commander in chief, and A. B. Vaughan, G. H. Bemis and Horace Blodgett aids for the west side.

The county seat, consisting then of a peddler's tin box, which could be carried in one hand, was spirited away from Frankford, and after many narrow escapes was hid for a time at High Forest and then brought to Austin, and for several days (until blood could cool a little) hid in a cellar in Austin, covered by a pile of potatoes, and when that pile of potatoes, consisting of some 15 or 20 bushels, had been opened from the top and the small trunk or tin box put in the centre thereof, and the potatoes carelessly thrown over the box, that was one of the most innocent-looking pile of potatoes you ever saw.

The contest over this county seat matter for a few days looked very portentous and threatening, but calmer councils finally prevailed, and the matter ended in a few arrests and still fewer parties being bound over to appear to answer at the next term of the District Court to be held in Fillmore county. Suffice it to say, no one was ever indicted for stealing the county seat, and Austin has ever since been the county seat of Mower county, AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT.

On June 1, 1857, the county seat, by a vote of the people, was formally located at Austin. At that election 755 votes were cast, not including High Forest, which, as railroad

men say, had been moved into Olmsted county, for engineering purposes.

The first school in Austin was taught by Maria Vaughan in a log house, which was afterwards occupied by the yours truly and his wife for a dwelling house, and stood on the north side of Water St., where James Anderson's now stands. The second school was taught by one Sarah Bemis, sister of Oliver and George Bemis. The third by Kate Conkey, sister of Geo. N. Conkey, Both these schools were located in a small building where Thomas Riley's dwelling house is now located.

The fourth and last primitive school was taught in the winter of 1856-7 by a young gentleman by the name of Saxon. The payment of whose wages caused the arrest and sale of several thousand shingles by your most obedient as District Clerk, belonging to two wealthy merchants whose names I forbear to mention, as I see one of those young merchants here to-day. Those young merchants severely threatened that faithful clerk of the school district with a long and tedious law suit, but the suit has never come off yet as I have heard.

The first school-house built in Austin is the building now occupied and used as the Methodist Episcopal church. The second is the large and commodious building which now adorns yonder heights, and is now occupied by 600 children.

The first parties married in the county were Caleb Stock and Mary Watkins. This was in 1856, Sylvester Smith, a Justice of the Peace, officiating.

The first birth was that of Austin Bemis, son of George and Elinor Bemis, in the

year 1855, who now, and has for some time, lived in Utah.

The first death was that of Mary Robinson, of High Forest, daughter of John Robinson, in the year 1855.

The first town site recorded was the town of Austin, which was partly surveyed and platted by Yates & Lewis and is now Yates & Lewis' addition to Austin. Then followed the village of Austin, where we now are.

Several once live and famous town sites have long since passed in their chips. I refer to the city of Madison, ten miles north of here on the west side of the Cedar river, which once had its hotels, stores and a saw mill. I refer also to the city of Two Rivers, one mile and a half south of here, at the confluence of the Turtle and Cedar rivers, which once had a famous hotel, kept by Robert Audiss, and for a time bid fair to eclipse Austin. I refer also to Cedar City, six miles south of here, which once had its saw mill and its flouring mill, and Justice Meanes, before whom long suits at law were wont to be tried in ancient days. But the floods of August, 1858, swept out the last vestige of that city. I refer also to Troy City, eight miles south of here, which, unlike its predecessor of ancient lore, never had any wooden horses to beguile the unsuspecting and overcredulous, but it had its hotel and saw mill and grist mill, which the floods of 1858 and financial reverses swept away. There were also some misadventures upon the east side of the county in founding cities, like Frankford and old LeRoy, which have nearly faded out.

The first frame house built in the county

was built by Chauncy Leverich on lot 5, in block 2, in the village of Austin, near where the dwelling house of James T. Sargeant now stands. By so doing the Leverichs were accused, at that time, of putting on "airs," which frame house long since went down before the corroding tooth of time.

The first saw mill built in the county was built by Chauncy Leverich in the year 1855, where Engle's mill now stands.

The first newspaper ever published in the county was by David Blakely in Austin in the fall of 1858, called the Mower county *Mirror*. Blakely started this paper in consideration of being elected to the lucrative office of Register of Deeds of Mower county. He published this paper for about one year, and was succeeded by Rufus K. Crum, who published the paper for about another, at which time the paper was removed to Rochester, Minn.

About four months thereafter B. F. Jones commenced the publication of the *Courier*, which, by various devices, was continued for some two years, when Jones went into the United States service; and in July, 1863, the Mower County *Register* was started by Herman R. Davidson, just out of Oberlin college, and son of Joshua L. Davidson, who published the paper for about one year and until his death, when C. H. Davidson continued the publication of the paper. Then came the *Transcript* and other papers.

From an expenditure of \$1,000 per year for school purposes in the year 1856, we have grown to an expenditure of \$40,000 per year in Mower county.

From a population of 600 inhabitants in

the year 1856, we have become 18,000 at the present time.

From a village of 100 in 1856, we have become a city of 3,000 inhabitants, with good churches, good schools and bridges and a good court house. These changes have been so gradual that we have scarcely noticed them, only as they have been a severe strain upon our pockets.

But if we go a little more into details we find that on the road from here to Ramsey Henry Baudler has given way to W. A. Crane, Josephus P. Jones to Litchfield and Boynton, Robert Dobbins to Garrad and John F. Cook, Samuel Clayton to M. Teeter, Jesse and Samuel Dickson to John Mathieson, and when we look around Austin, Henry Carter to J. M. Sterling, Col. Avery to J. K. Strever, John Monroe to C. E. Carter, Alexander Nigus to A. V. Ellis, and thus we might travel all over the county. These former owners and occupants, once your neighbors, are scattered to the four winds, some in Western Minnesota, some in Iowa, some in Dakota, some in Kansas, some in Nebraska and some on the Pacific coast, and not a few during the twenty-five years have passed beyond the river. We are reminded that the inhabitants of Oakwood cemetery will soon outnumber those of our city. There lie the forms of many of our neighbors and friends, whom we have embalmed with our tears and laid away to that sleep which knows no waking. There also lie a few of the many who went down in that great conflict for the life of the nation, for at the close of that great struggle when the roll of honor for Mower county was called, more than fifty from the county

answered not to their names; they were filling soldiers' graves, and most of them in distant States.

The hasty glance which we have taken contrasting the present with the past, shows that Mower county has indeed made great progress in every material and vital matter pertaining to, and effecting the interests, and the true interests of her citizens, and that Mower county is well abreast with other counties in our State, in her mechanical and agricultural interests, as well as schools, churches, railroads, buildings, bridges and every internal improvement calculated to build up and develop the whole county.

It is true that this advancement has been slow, but be not dismayed. The great architect of this world was centuries in bringing from out of chaos this planet on which our home to-day is. Will you falter, will you be dismayed, because it takes a few years, yea, even a quarter of a century, to create and build up a county.

Go learn a lesson from the little architects of that new and great continent that is being lifted slowly but surely from out the great Pacific Ocean. Those little corals, those architects are content to live and deposit their bodies in death, no larger than a grain of sand, and the great work of building a continent, under God's orderings, may go on.

My neighbor, my friend, go and exhibit a like fortitude, a like patience, and do with all your might what God in His Providence may seem to indicate that you should, and be content.

Song, "The Dear Old Friends we Loved Long Ago."

Judge Geo. M. Cameron then gave a short extemporaneous address. He said, in effect, that it gave him great pleasure to meet so many old settlers of Mower county. We have lived in friendship all these years. Many of us were poor when we came here, and we have held our own ever since. Some have done well, but they have earned it by hard toil. Some have failed from want of experience, and through no want of industry on their part. The resources of the county are ample, more than enough to keep all, if wise and skillful means of developing our soil are employed. I suppose this gathering is to partake somewhat of the character of a religious meeting, where people are wont to relate their experiences and confess their sins. My first view of Austin was about 28 years ago. I arrived one evening about dark, with only \$3.50 in my pocket. Judge Allen in his address speaks of one murder, that of Leverich. I regard that as a case of manslaughter, as it was not premeditated. Leverich came out of his saloon to administer chastisement, and was struck on the head with a wagon spring with greater violence than was intended. There was a case where a man, after drinking in a saloon, was found dead, evidently by foul means. Another case occurred where a Norwegian killed his son in a quarrel over a discussion of the question as to the route they should take home.

Hon. John Frank of LeRoy, was called upon, and responded by saying he had spent 29 summers in Mower county and 50 winters. He proposed to stay 50 years more.

The following letter from Hon. Moses K. Armstrong, of St. James, Minn., was then read by the secretary:

ST. JAMES, MINN., June 8, 1884.

*C. H. Davidson, Esq., Austin, Minn.:*

DEAR SIR:—I am very sorry that I am not able to accept your kind invitation to be present at the Old Settlers Re-union at Austin, June 12. Nearly 30 years ago I was County Surveyor of Mower county, and laid out west Austin in town lots. There were about a dozen houses in Austin at that time. There was not a printing office in the county. I rode 40 miles south of Austin, into Iowa to get election tickets printed; there were no railroads, and hardly a wagon bridge in the county. I swam the Cedar river at Austin on a blind white horse with my compass on my back to survey your town. At the corner post in West Austin, we buried a black bottle of Austin whisky for old settlers. Jerry Yates protested stoutly against putting whisky in the ground when there were so many men above ground that would like to have it. It was a common saying among early settlers that there was no beverage known to the oldest inhabitant that would bring quicker returns or make a man fighting drunk sooner than a barrel of Austin's Territorial whisky. I understand now that Mower county old settlers drink nothing stronger than pure apple cider produced from their own fruit orchards.

I hear my brother Tom is to be over at your meeting. Please keep your eye on him; he never drinks a drop, but his looks are deceiving; he is as slick and fat as a man raised in a brewery. I have often wondered where he got it, unless it was at these old settlers meetings.

My life has been a busy one since I left Mower county long years ago to survey gov-

ernment lands in the far west. At one time I fell from grace and ran for Congress, and the people were fools enough to elect men; when for the first time they realized that they had spoiled a good surveyor to make a poor Congressman. I have now reached the meridian of life and can look back over my past mistakes. The old saying is that the first 20 years of a man's life he is a fool, the next 20 years he is engaged in finding it out, and the last 20 he is busy correcting the mistakes of his past life.

Let us all live to close our lives honorably and peacefully, and respected by our neighbors. This is the highest achievement of life. Give my kindest regards to the old settlers. Yours truly,

MOSES K. ARMSTRONG.

Jerry Yates said he came into Mower county, September 1, 1855. Said old settlers had had lots of fun, and some of it wasn't so funny after all.

Lyman D. Baird was called out, as one of the first children born in Mower county, 1857. He made a short pleasant address, but had to appeal to Dr. J. N. Wheat to authenticate the incidents of his settlement.

C. H. Huntington then read an original poem written by Mrs. Mercy Greene.

Timothy Chapman, of Spring Valley, first Register of Deeds of Mower county, came forward at the call of the audience, and spoke briefly of the occasion. We hope to see him here at our next annual meeting.

Jonas Haney, P. F. Rooney, W. I. Brown, Dea. J. N. Cook, J. T. Sargeant, Thos. Smith, and others, filled up the time of the morning session, with incidents of their experience in the early days.

About half past one, as the dinner hour was at hand, the proceedings were checked, and an election of officers was held, with the following result :

Thos. Gibson, President.

J. B. Yates, Vice-President.

C. H. Davidson, Secretary and Treasurer.

Then a representative of the corps of writers now preparing a history of Mower county, presented the subject, and asked for co-operation, and presented a list of committees for approval, which committees are for the purpose of revising the proof-sheets of the History. On motion, the names as presented were approved.

A motion was then made and carried that the next annual meeting be held on the 12th day of June, 1885.

Then the meeting adjourned for dinner, and the old settlers to the number of about 200, proceeded to the banquet, spread at the Mansfield House. The tables presented a beautiful appearance, and were loaded with the varieties of the season.

After the banquet, they repaired to the hall, where the love-feast was resumed.

Addresses followed by J. J. Furlong, of Windom, O. W. Shaw and C. L. West, of Austin, M. B. Slocum, of Rose Creek, A. Dickerson and T. F. Goslee, of Austin township, and Thomas Gibson, of Lansing. Knute Anderson Qvale, who came with one of the first two or three families that settled in Nevada township, in 1854, was called upon, and gave a brief account of his journey from Milwaukee by ox team, and other incidents.

It was then suggested that the exercises be closed with the singing of the Doxology by

George Baird. After the motion to adjourn was carried, all were invited to partake of an old settlers smoke, C. H. Huntington of Austin township, and F. O. McBride, the Grocer, having furnished a wooden bowl of tobacco, fringed with clay pipes, which had been a conspicuous ornament on the Judge's bench all day.

Thus ended one of the most pleasant occasions in the memory of the "oldest inhabitant," and all returned to their homes well pleased, and expressed themselves as determined to be present at the next meeting.

The following poem, by Mrs. Mercy Greene, was read before the association, by C. H. Huntington :

TO THE OLD SETTLERS OF MOWER COUNTY.

For the *Austin Register*.

It was November 18th, 1854,

In what is now Austin, county of Mower.

Calvin G. Powers and his little band,

To get a home and till the land,

Landed at the farm called the Sweet Water Claim,

To keep off intruders and hold the same;

And in the river by Officer's mill,

He caught the fish—we eat our fill.

We all went to Eb. Mary's to get some hay,

And the red men came along that way,

And in our house top they did break

And our provisions they did take.

So it was hard for us to survive,

Until the spring of fifty-five.

But thanks to the Wilders who helped us thro',

Kind hearted and generous when the country was new.

On the 7th of May—that happy morn we hailed with joy,

When Huntington and wife and little boy,

And Lott and wife with hogs and cattle and goods,

Came picking their way down through the  
woods,  
They brought supplies for one and all,  
To last us through till the coming fall,  
To breaking they went, and thought 'twas fun—  
A pioneer's life they had just begun.

With plow, and spade, and axe, and hoe,  
They dug up the ground so corn could grow.  
So they went on like wind and fire,  
To raise a crop—their hearts desire.  
Huntington built on the brink of the hill,  
Across the run from Officer's mill,  
From beneath whence the sweet waters flow,  
And Lott at the mouth of Rose Creek did go.

Then in the fall of fifty-five  
We moved to Rose Creek and built us a hive ;  
He made his claim and stuck a stake.  
And there a farm and home began to make.  
Together we work through snow and rain,  
For ourselves and children a home to gain.  
Ezra Ames and family came next to stay,  
And took a claim across the way.

In a month or two, about the time of roses,  
There came another man—that was brother  
Moses,  
His wife and children with him did bring,  
He stopped with us at the boiling spring.  
The spot and place you cannot miss  
For it is now owned by neighbor Bliss.  
The next came Prouty, and Varco and uncle  
John Rose,  
A quarter section for a farm each one of them  
chose.

Each labored hard his land to break,  
And in our log cabin much comfort did take ;  
To mill and to meeting with oxen go—  
Give me a new country, true worth for to show.  
We traveled together when country was new,  
Tho' hardships were plenty and neighbors  
were few.  
Provisions were scarce and the country was  
wet  
C. G. P. went to Wimona a load to get.

He waded and he swam through water up to  
his chin,  
The comforts of life to his family to bring ;  
Oh, well do I now remember the time—  
That rainy Fourth of July in fifty-nine.  
Oh, then there came to us a sad blow,  
When sickness came and laid him low  
And left me with his children dear,  
To struggle on the wild frontier.

A good many changes since then I have seen,  
Whilst swiftly gliding down life's rugged  
stream.  
My boat will soon anchor on yon bright shore,  
Where peace will reign forever more.  
On the same farm where I was left,  
When he was laid away to rest.  
The ups and downs of life we're passing thro'  
And now I'll bid you all a kind adieu.

—*Mercy Greene.*

Thomas Gibson was born in old Marion,  
City of Dublin, Ireland, June 20, 1820. He  
grew to manhood in his native city, where  
he learned the brick and stone mason trade,  
which he worked at until 1847, when he  
emigrated to the United States. The first  
work he did was at the great stock viaduct  
and Cascade bridge on the New York &  
Érie railroad in Susquehanna county, Penn-  
sylvania. Mr. Gibson left the road in the  
spring of 1849, working that season at the  
government dry dock at Brooklyn, New  
York. He left that work of his own accord  
and from there he went to Kentucky, where  
he built a great many large churches under  
that celebrated architect William Kealy.  
One of the churches, in Nelson county, is  
225 feet long and has eight octagon towers.  
Mr. Gibson has left a great many monu-  
ments of his skill as a builder in Jefferson,  
Marion and Nelson counties, Kentucky.  
In 1855-56 the Know-Nothing party was

very rampant in those counties. Mr. Gibson being all his life a strenuous advocate of civil and religious liberty, made up his mind to leave, which resolution he carried out in the spring of 1856, by going to Iowa, where he worked a short time on the insane asylum at Independence, in Buchanan county, but being anxious to get a home, left there after remaining but two months. He came to Mower county, Minnesota, and settled in section 12, where he still resides. He bought his claim in August, for which he paid \$100, and stock to the amount of \$800. He paid \$150 a pair for oxen, and \$45 to \$50 for cows. Having plenty of money when coming to the county he got along swimmingly for about two years, when his money was gone and so far reduced financially that he could not post a letter. He sold some oxen,

for which he received \$45, and cows for \$12, in trade. Mr. Gibson was married in the county of Kildare, Ireland, in 1842, to Elizabeth Rutherford, by whom he had seventeen children, fourteen of whom are living—Joseph D., Mary A., John M., Catherine M., Thomas M., Benedict E., Susanna, Elizabeth J., Charles, Rosanna E., Teresa B., Sarah E., Emmaline J. Mrs. Gibson died March 26, 1867. Mr. Gibson was again married in January, 1870, to Rose Meehan. She was born in the county of Meath, Ireland. Mr. Gibson is a Democrat, and has held local offices; he is also the first president of the old settlers' society. Mr. Gibson and family are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Gibson is respected by all who know him.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### AUSTIN TOWNSHIP.

Austin comprises congressional township 102, north, range 18, west, except that part included in the city of Austin. It has for its neighbors, Lansing on the north, Windom on the east, Lyle south, and the town of Oakland, in Freeborn county, joins it on the west. The township is drained by Cedar river and its tributaries. The river traverses the town from north to south, entering section 3 from the town of Lansing, it takes a southward course, leaving the town from section 33. The principle tributaries of the

river are Rose, Dobbins and Turtle creeks. When this locality was first settled the banks of Cedar river were skirted with a heavy growth of timber, while on either side back from the timber was a beautiful stretch of prairie land. West from the river the land is quite level, while on the east it is gently undulating. The soil is a rich dark loam, in some places slightly mixed with sand, in all parts very productive and well adapted to the different cereals and grasses grown in this locality. This is one of the oldest settled

townships in the county. It is impossible to state who was the first to make a settlement within its present limits. As early as 1854, Jackson Wilder laid claim to a large tract of land east of Cedar River, including what was known as the Sweet Water claim, so called from a beautiful spring of clear water. He, however, did not stop here, but pushed on to Mitchell county, Iowa. He hired a man to build a log house on the claim, which was done, but no roof was put on. In September, 1854, C. H. Huntington, A. S. Lott, Calvin Powers and Moses Rolph came from Rock county, Wisconsin, seeking a location. They discovered the Sweet Water claim located in sections 27 and 34. They also discovered that Jackson Wilder and his son, Nelson, living in Mitchell county, Iowa, had made a claim of the land which they wanted. As the Wilders were not living on their claim it would have been an easy matter and a proper thing to have done under the circumstances, to have jumped the claim. But Huntington and Lott thought they would rather buy the claim at reasonable figures than to have trouble. They accordingly went to Iowa and bought the claim. The party before returning to Wisconsin went up the river as far as Lansing, where they selected a claim for A. B. Vaughan, on which he afterward settled. They visited the present site of the city of Austin, where they met Leverich, who offered to sell his claim for \$500. They offered him \$450, which he refused. After this the party returned to Wisconsin. Mr. Huntington felt uneasy lest some one should jump the claim during his absence in the winter. He accordingly employed his brother-in-law, Calvin Powers, to

come with his family and spend the winter. Mr. Huntington accompanied Mr. Powers on his return trip. They arrived at the Sweetwater claim the 18th of November. They had made the trip of 250 miles with a pair of horses and a wagon, brought Mr. Powers' household goods along, as well as a stock of provisions to last through the winter. They also drove a cow along with them. Huntington employed Mr. Foster to assist Powers to build a log house, after which he returned to Wisconsin. Powers soon had his house ready for occupancy. It was built of round logs. The building which was 12 feet wide by 15 feet in length contained one window and a door. The cracks he chinked with chips and plastered with mud. He made oak shakes with which to cover the roof. Here Mr. Powers with his wife and four small children spent the winter. One day in February, while Mr. Powers and his family were away from home some Indians broke into their cabin and stole their provisions. They were, however, kindly cared for and supplied with a new stock by their neighbors, the Wilders, in Iowa, and the winter was passed with little suffering.

On the 15th of April, 1855, Huntington & Lott, the latter in the meantime having married Huntington's wife's sister, started on their return to their new home, where they arrived the 6th of May, having made the trip overland with 8 pairs of oxen and 2 wagons. They brought their household goods along and drove 48 head of young cattle and 44 hogs. In Howard county they were joined by George Bemis and John Osborne, who made the latter part of the journey with them. Huntington & Lott

brought a cast iron mill with them which was the first in use in Mower county. It was used by the people far and near for some time. They afterward sold this mill to Quincy A. Truesdell, who operated it for a time by water power on Dobbins creek. Lott settled on the place he now occupies in section 27. Huntington settled on the Sweetwater claim that he still occupies. Bemis settled on the present site of the City of Austin.

Charles H. Huntington was born in the town of Painsville, Lake county, Ohio, in 1828; his ancestors were from New England. His grandfather was a Paymaster in the revolutionary war, and was a frontier settler of Ohio. Mr. Huntington lost his father when a child; his mother afterward married Henry Lott, father of A. S. Lott. The family then moved to Pennsylvania, and then to Wisconsin, and from there to the Territory of Iowa. Mr. Huntington, as will be seen, had seen much frontier life before he came to Minnesota. He came to Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1850, and overland to California, in 1852, returning in 1855, and located in Mower county in the same year. He was married in Rock county, Wisconsin, to Charlotte Bebee, born in Vermont, in 1828, and removed to New York State with her parents, and thence to Rock county, Wisconsin. They have had three children, but lost them all. They were Henry A., died at the age of ten years, Huldah, aged four years, and an infant son.

Abraham S. Lott, one of the earliest settlers of the town of Austin, was born in Painsville, Ohio, July 7th, 1832. His father, Henry Lott, was a native of Pennsylvania,

and went to Ohio when a boy, only eight years old. Abraham moved with his parents to Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, and when he was fourteen years old, he went with his parents to Missouri, and from there to Polk county, Iowa. In 1850 Mr. Lott joined a party going overland to California. They left the Missouri river May 8th, and arrived at Georgetown, California, July 22d, following. On the route Mr. Lott was one of four men that killed forty-four buffaloes in one hour. He remained in California four years, engaged in mining; he returned by way of Pannama, coming directly to Rock county, Wisconsin. He was married in the town of Union, Rock county, Wisconsin, to Jane C. Bebee. She was born in Wyoming county, New York, September 5, 1834, and removed to Rock county, Wisconsin, with her father, Guy Bebee, in 1846. They have two children, Colbert H., and Olive M., the wife of Riley Brooks of this town. They have two children, Rachael V. and Abraham C. Mr. Lott owns 600 acres of land.

Daniel L. Chandler, is the eldest son of Welcome and Amy (Phelps) Chandler. Was born in Shepard county, Canada. He made his home with his parents until 20 years of age, then went to Massachusetts, and stopped in the town of Marlborough, Middlesex county, six months, then went to Wisconsin, and stopped in Racine and Rock counties until 1854. In the summer of that year he started for Mitchell, Iowa, being in the employ of a man named Newman, that owned the water power at Mitchell. He drove two pair of oxen, and brought with him the first mill irons in this section of the country. On his arrival at Mitchell, he concluded to look

about for a suitable location to make him a home. He accordingly came to Mower county, and pre-empted land as before stated. Like other early settlers he first turned his attention to raising grain, but of late years has turned his attention to raising stock.

Mr. Chandler has been prominent in town affairs, having filled offices of trust with great credit to himself. He is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was joined in marriage in September 1862, to Mary E. Burgess. She was born in Lake county, Illinois. They have seven children, named Eva, Amy, Annie, Herman, Lillie, Nora, and Nellie.

Osborne settled on section 33, where he still lives.

In the fall of 1855, Powers settled on section 25, where he resided until the time of his death. His widow still owns the place.

During this same year there were other settlers, but none that were permanent. There were 3 men named Avery, a father and two sons, that made settlements in section 4. But little is known of them, as they remained but about two years, then moved away. In 1855, the following named came: Robert Andis, Alexander Nigus, Ruben and Levi Watrous, Widow Lockwood, George Phelps and Thomas Phelps, Clem Smith, Daniel McPherson and M. J. Woodson.

Andis came from Fayette county, Iowa, and settled on section 10. He opened his house as a hotel. He erected quite a good sized building for a dance hall, and there the people often gathered for a good time. Andis remained a resident of the town a few years, then returned to Iowa. Nigus settled in section two, on land now owned by A. V.

Ellis. He was here but a little more than a year, when he sold and moved away. The Watrous brothers and Widow Lockwood, had claims in section 12. They sold and returned to Iowa about two years later. Smith and the Phelps brothers were from Canada. Smith settled in section 23, where he bought the west  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the southeast quarter. He went to war and died in the service. Thomas Phelps pre-empted the northwest of the northwest, of section 32. He lived here until war times, when he sold and moved to Vinton, Iowa, from thence he went to the war, and died in the service.

In 1856, there were quite a number of arrivals, among which were the following: Jacob S. Decker, W. A. Woodson, John Chandler and H. VanWinkle, John Watkins, Caleb Stock, Alfred Cressy, Thomas Bonnelli, John Rose and H. E. Case, Thomas Varco, Harry G. Prouty and Welcome Osborne. Decker was a native of New Jersey; settled on the northwest of section one, where he still lives. Woodson and VanWinkle were from Illinois; had been here the previous fall and selected a claim in section 13. Woodson now lives in southeast, of section 11. VanWinkle now lives on the southeast, of section 15. Watkins was a native of Wales. He settled on the northwest, of section 33, where he still lives.

Jacob L. Decker was born in the town of Wallpark, Sussex county, New Jersey, October 14, 1831, where his younger days were spent in school, and on the farm. He was joined in marriage February 28, 1855, to Mary A. Smith, She was also born in the same town as her husband. They remained in New Jersey until 1855, then started west

to seek a home. Went directly to Colesburg, Iowa, where they spent the winter. In March 1856, with oxen and wagon started for the territory of Minnesota. At West Union the snow was so deep he was obliged to change from wagon to sled. Arriving in Mower county, he bought a claim in section one, town 102, range 18, now known as the town of Austin. A log house, a well, and three-fourths of an acre broken, constituted the improvements. The family occupied the log house until 1860, then built a frame house, which was burned with all its contents in 1865. He then built the house he now occupies. His farm now contains three hundred and twenty acres; is considered one of the best farms in Mower county. There are two fine natural groves on the farm, with an area of about 75 acres. Mr. Decker has taken an interest in public affairs; has filled offices of trust in the town; is at present Justice of the Peace. Mr. and Mrs. Decker are the parents of six children, named Elizabeth, wife of Willard Sargent, Calvin D., Chester H., Alonzo, Silas D., and Edward W.

William A. Woodson, one of the pioneers of Mower county, was born in Clay county, Kentucky, February 6, 1819. His father, George Washington Woodson, was a native of Virginia. When a young man he, with a colony, went to Kentucky and settled. His grandfather on his mother's side, James Buntin, was one of the colony. He was in service for Uncle Sam during the war of 1812, after which he settled in Laurel county, Kentucky. The father of the subject of our sketch when married settled in Clay county, Kentucky, and lived there till 1824; then moved to Indiana and lived there two years,

when he returned and settled in Laurel county, Kentucky, remaining there until 1834, when he moved to Illinois. This was before the days of railroads, and all these moves had to be accomplished with teams. In 1835, his wife died, and he accepted a clerkship for one year. He then married again, bought a farm in Coles county and there spent the remnant of his days. The subject of our sketch remained with his parents until his mother's death. He then rented a farm in Edgar county for two years, then worked his father's farm for two years. He then purchased a farm on the Ambrose River, remaining there till 1856, when, with his brother-in-law, H. VanWinkle, and their families, started with horses and ox teams for a new home in the then far west, a distance of 600 miles, starting with eighty head of cattle, some of which they sold on the way. They dropped anchor in Mower county, built a log house on section 14. He now lives on section 11, where he has fine frame buildings. His farm contains 300 acres, well supplied with water, stone and timber. He has been twice married. His first wife was Estelm M. Ervin, a native of Virginia. They had three children named Jemmie, Elizabeth and Margaret I. Mrs. Woodson died in 1855. His second wife, to whom he was married in 1856, was Maria Fifer, a native of Pennsylvania. Mr. Woodson has filled offices of trust in his town, is a member of the present board of supervisors of his township and has been a member of the school board for a number of years.

Stock was a native of England. He settled on the north one-half of the southeast quarter of section 32. He was a man of en-

terprise and ability. He is now a resident of Mitchell, Iowa, where he deals in grain.

Cressy was also a native of England. He settled on the southeast quarter of section 31. He afterward experienced religion and became a preacher in the M. E. Church.

Bonnellie was a Scotchman. He pre-empted land in sections 32-33, and lived there until after the war. He now lives in Freeborn county.

Rose was an Eastern man, and settled in the northeast of section 25. He now lives in Kansas.

Case was a speculator from New Britton, Connecticut. He claimed the southeast quarter of section 5. He moved a shanty from the village to the claim, and lived there long enough to pre-empt, when he returned to his native State.

Varco was a native of England. He settled on the place he now occupies on section 26.

Prouty was a native of York State, and came from Wisconsin. He settled in the southeast of section 26, which place was his home until the time of his death.

George Phelps pre-empted the north half of the northeast quarter of section 32. In 1858 he traded for an interest in the mill property at Cedar City. About a year later he sold and went to California.

McPherson was from Canada. He settled on the northwest of section 14, where he died about two years later.

Woodson was a native of Kentucky. He settled in section 14, where he still lives.

Welcome Osborne was a native of Canada. His settlement was on the southwest of section 32. He lives in Lyle.

John Chandler, son of Welcome and Amy (Phelps) Chandler, pioneers of Mower county, was born in the town of Milton, Shepard county, Canada, October 26, 1836, where his younger days were spent on the farm and in school. He was 17 years of age when he moved with his parents to Wisconsin, where he remained with them until the spring of 1856, when he came to Minnesota, and located in Mower county. He first made a claim on section 4, town 101, range 18, now known as the town of Lyle. This claim included the water power. He waived his claim in favor of other parties that wished to build a mill there, and took a claim in sections 21-28, and pre-empted the land in 1858. He went to Moscow, Freeborn county and engaged in a steam saw mill there for ten years. He then removed to Austin. He engaged in the grocery business in that city. He remained a resident of Austin until 1882, when he removed to his farm, and has since devoted his time to agricultural pursuits. He has been twice married. His first wife, to whom he was married April 15, 1860, was Sara —. She died in 1871, leaving three children, named Amy E., Jno. A., Stephen D. His second wife, to whom he was married in 1874, was Emily J. Lawyer. She was born in Chenango county, New York. They have one child named Carrie Belle.

The following are sketches of some of the settlers of 1857 :

Welcome Chandler settled in Austin, in 1857. He was a native of the Green Mountain State, born in the town of London, — January 11, 1808. When he was but twelve years of age, his parents emigrated to Cana-

da, and settled at Raughmont, Province of Quebec, where he grew to manhood. When he was twenty years of age, he left home and settled in Shepard county, Province of Quebec, and was one of the first settlers in the town of Milton, where he purchased government land, which was heavily timbered, then he cleared a farm, and resided until 1857, when he sold out, with his family joined his son David L., in Mower county. He purchased land in section 32, and improved a farm of 80 acres. He built a house on land which he bought of his son, in section 32, and made his home there, until the time of his death, which occurred in December, 1880. He was joined in marriage in Canada to Amy Phelps, a native of Vermont. Ten children blessed their union; seven of which are now living, named: David L., John, Sterling, Hannah, George, William, Rosanna Cecelia. Mrs. C. died May 11, 1883. A son named Stephen enlisted early in the war, in the 9th Minnesota, Company C., was captured at the battle of Guntown, and died in a rebel prison.

George Chandler is the present town clerk, is the son of Welcome and Amy (Phelps) Chandler, pioneers of Mower county. He was born in Shepard county, Canada, June 28, 1845, was twelve years of age when his parents came to Mower county, where he grew to manhood, attending school, and assisting his father on the farm.

In 1873 he made a trip to California and Oregon, where he spent five months, then returned to Minnesota and accepted a clerkship in Austin. In 1878, he engaged in the grocery trade for a short time, then sold out and began farming. His farm contains one

hundred and seventy acres, of section twenty-one, has a fine frame house. He was joined in marriage, June 4th, 1878, to Florence Brown. She was born in Dedham, Massachusetts. They have two children named Mabel and Edith. Mr. Chandler united with the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1858. He has served as class teacher, steward, trustee and as superintendent of the Sabbath school.

Andrew Gemmel, one of the pioneers of Mower county, is a native of Scotland, born in Renfrewshire, town of Paisley, October 31, 1819. His father was a manufacturer in the city of Glasgow, where the subject of our sketch grew to manhood, receiving his education in the schools of that city. As soon as he was old enough to assume the duties he was employed as clerk in his father's warehouse, remaining there until 1842, when he left his native land and came to America. He spent the first year in Montreal, then went to St. Hyacinthe, where he engaged in mercantile trade nine years, then moved to Wisconsin, and was in trade with his brother-in-law, John Phelps, at Burlington, Racine county, two years, then sold out and returned to Canada and engaged clerking in town until 1857, when, with his family he started for Minnesota, coming on the cars to Dunlieth, Illinois, then up the river to St. Paul, where he hired teams, to bring them to Cedar City. They stopped until fall with his brother-in-law. During the time he had built a log house on the land he had pre-empted in section 30. The family lived in the log house until 1876. The house was burned the 29th of May of that year. He then built the frame house he now occupies

He was married March 8, 1845, to Phoebe Phelps. She was born at Raughmont, near Montreal, Oct. 5, 1821. They have seven children living, named Andrew, Alexander E., Margaret, Victoria, Arthur, Isabella P., Agnes D. He was the first collector in town.

PROMINENT SETTLERS OF A LATER DATE.

Joseph K. Strever resides on the north half of section 4, where he settled in 1858; he bought the land of John A. Avery. Mr. Avery made the first improvements and built a log house, and had ten acres broken. Mr. Strever brought his family here in July 1858 from Illinois. Mr. Strever was born in Washington county, New York, December 17th, 1824, where he lived until twenty-one years old. He was engaged on public works for ten or twelve years, and came here from Shelby county, Illinois, where he was married to Melvina Buell. She was born in Vermont, and came to Illinois, when a child with her parents. She came here with her husband, and died soon after. She left one daughter, Flora M., who lives with her father. She was born at Fort Edward, New York State. Mr. Strever's brother, Edmund, came to Austin several years later than Mr. Strever, and lived but a short time. His family still resides in Austin.

John B. Revord now owns and occupies the farm formerly occupied by Judge Page, in section 10. He bought the place in 1882. The residence is a fine brick house and cost \$5000. The farm contains 70 acres, about 45 of which are improved, the balance pasture and timber. Turtle Creek flows through the farm, making water abundant, and the farm valuable as a stock farm. Mr. Revord was born in Lower Canada, in 1830.

When 18 years of age, he went to Washington county, New York, and from there to Chicago. In 1852, he settled in Joliet, Illinois, where he worked at his trade, of boot and shoe making. In 1856, he came to Mower county and made a claim in section 28, town of Lansing, where he resided until 1862, when he enlisted in Company C., 9th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war; was with the Company in active service all of the time. He engaged in farming one year, after returning from the army, then engaged in the boot and shoe and grocery trade, which he continued until 1876, when he sold to John Lambert. At about this time he bought a section of land in the town of Windom, all of which he improved, and a part of which he still owns. He was married in Illinois to Laomi Bero, also a native of Canada, born May 4, 1827. Her father, Lewis Bero, was a native of Canada, her mother, whose maiden name was Permelia Foster, was a native of Vermont. Mr. and Mrs. Revord have five children, Addie, born March 7, 1856, at Joliet, Ill., married Joseph Keenan. She died June 15, 1884, leaving a husband and four children, viz.: Emily Regina, Mary A., Claud C. and Genevieve. Their second daughter, born Dec. 16, 1858; Franklin Thorn, Oct. 31, 1860; Clara A., born January 26, 1863; Thomas A., born May 18, 1866.

Mason Parmenter, a pioneer of Mower county, was born in the valley of the Cataaugus river, Cataaugus county, New York, in April 1812. His father, Elijah Parmenter, was a native of Massachusetts, and was one of the first settlers in that part of the Holland patent, included in the limits of Cataaugus

county. He bought land from the Holland company, improved a farm, and lived there until the time of his death. The subject of our sketch there grew to manhood and was married to Mary Goodemote, also a native of Cataaugus county. He bought a farm and lived there until 1854, and then emigrated to Wisconsin, and located in Dane county, and remained there until 1858, when he bought two pair of oxen and a covered wagon, or prairie schooner, as usually called, and started with his family overland for Minnesota. Came directly to Mower county, and purchased a claim in section 35. It was railroad land. He bought the land as soon as it came into market, improved a farm and made this his home until the time of his death, which occurred January 26, 1876. Mrs. Parmenter died in 1879. There were 5 children born to them, named Elder, James, John E., Mason J., and Sarah E. Elder was born in 1842. He made his home with his parents until 1861, when he enlisted in Co. K, 4th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and went south. He died while in the service, at St. Louis, Missouri.

John E. was born April 7, 1848; was 10 years of age when he came to Minnesota with his parents; grew to manhood in the town of Austin, receiving his education in the public schools. In 1868 he engaged with J. M. Clarke, in Lyle township, to learn the blacksmith trade, and worked with him two years, then went to Mona, Iowa, where he ran a shop two years. He then engaged as mechanic with the United States Government, and went to the western frontier. He was in the service of the government the greater part of the time, until 1880. During

the mean time he had started a blacksmith shop at Varco station, in company with a brother. In 1880, he invented and patented a corn plow, and engaged in the manufacture of it. In 1879, he took out a patent on an improved skate, and in 1883, patented a potato digger, which he now manufactures at the old homestead, which he now owns and occupies. He was married in 1876, to Melina Osborne, daughter of Welcome and Caroline (Yates) Osborne, pioneers in the town of Austin. They have two children, named Eugenia and Earl. The youngest son, Mason J., was born April 22, 1852; was but two years of age when his parents left his native State, so that his recollection of his native town is very shady. He has always been engaged in agricultural pursuits, and made his home with his parents until the time of their death. In 1874 he bought the northeast quarter in section 35, and has since improved that place.

Barnabas Johnson came to Mower county in 1860, and settled in Austin township. He had poor health, and was unable to work at that time. His health continued to fail, and he died July 22, 1863. He was born in Pennsylvania, September 3, 1819. When he was 10 years old his parents emigrated to Ohio, and settled in Guernsey county, where he was married October 28, 1841. In 1853, they removed to Missouri, and settled in St. Clair county. Here he bought land and erected a good set of buildings. It was unpleasant here for him, as he was a Union man, so he sold at a great sacrifice in 1859, and came to Minnesota. They came with horses and ox teams, and drove a stock of cattle with them. Spent the winter in

Wapello county, Iowa, coming here in the spring, and settled in Austin. There were 11 children born to them, 9 of which are now living, viz: William J., Robert N., Thomas K., John H., Sarah C., Barnabas M., Nancy, Theodosia, Jennie J. Mrs. Johnson's maiden name was Maria Fitch. She was the widow of James Kendall.

Mr. Johnson was a member of the Baptist Church. He was a great Bible student, much respected by all who knew him. Mrs. Johnson is the wife of Julius Stone. Lives in Big Stone county.

George Dumond located in Austin township in 1862, at which time he took as a homestead the northeast of the southeast and the southeast of the northeast quarter of section 18. He first built a slab shanty, which he occupied a short time and then built a log house. He is a native of York State, born in Ulster county in December, 1830. He was reared to agricultural pursuits. In 1854 he settled in Winnebago county, Wisconsin, where he was one of the early settlers. From there he moved to Southern Illinois, where he lived two years. He then moved to Trempeleau county, Wisconsin, living there until 1862. He was married in 1860 to Hulda Stone, of Athens, Ohio. Her parents came to Austin at the same time with her husband and settled near by.

George VanCamp came to Mower county in 1859, spent two years in Lyle, then moved to Windom and remained there until the fall of 1862. He then took a homestead in section 4, town of Nevada. He built a log house and improved fifty acres. In 1874 he sold out and moved to Austin. He soon af-

ter commenced to buy grain at Varco, which he continued to do for two years. He then bought the place he now occupies in section 24, town of Austin. He is engaged in raising grain and stock, paying particular attention to raising fine horses. He is a native of New York State, born in Montgomery county October 4, 1833. His early education was received in the district school, advanced by one term at Little Falls' Academy and one term at Fort Plain seminary. He remained a resident of New York State until 1858, when he started west for a new home. He spent one year in Mitchell county, Iowa, then selected Mower county as his future home. He was married in 1854 to Emeline Mayer. She was born in Herkimer county, New York. They have two children named Lawrence and Kate.

Henry W. Lightly, chairman of the present board of supervisors of Austin, is a native of New York State, born in the town of Evans, Erie county, September 28, 1838. In 1855, with his parents, he came to Wisconsin and settled in Dodge county. He enlisted from there July 21, 1862, in Company H, Twenty-ninth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He was in several battles, the more important of which were the battles of Port Gibson, Champion Hills, Raymond Siege, and capture of Vicksburg. Was with Bank's Red River expedition. He was discharged with the regiment in July, 1865, and returned to Dodge county, where he resumed farming. In 1865 he came to Mower county and bought land in sections 19-20. In 1870 he commenced improvements. He was a single man at the time, and spent his summers here and the winters in the Black River

country, lumbering. He was joined in marriage in 1877 to Lucy Elliot. She was born in Michigan. Two children have blessed this union, named Bertha E. and Roy M. Previous to his marriage he settled on his farm, built a good frame house on section 20, also a large frame barn. He has beautified the grounds by planting shade and ornamental trees, also shrubbery of various kinds. He has 320 acres, most of it under cultivation.

William Gutherless resides on the north half of the southwest quarter of section 34, where he settled in May, 1865. He bought of George Foster, who pre-empted the land and put up a log house and broke ten acres. Mr. Gutherless was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1826, where he learned the trade of a bricklayer and plasterer. He came to the United States in 1851, and went to Canada the same year. He returned to England in the fall, 1851, and came back to stay in 1857. He landed at New York and went to Canada, and then came to Winona, in this State, from the city of Toronto, in Canada, and from Winona to Chatfield, Fillmore county, in the same year, where he lived for seven years, working at his trade, then came to Mower county. He has worked at his trade since he came here, having built a number of brick buildings in Austin, including the first brick school house and the Congregational church, J. F. Cook's residence, the first bank building. He was married first to Elizabeth Milner, a native of England. His present wife was Mary Ann Eaton, also a native of England. He has two daughters by his first wife; they live in England, and he has four children by his present wife—

Clara A., Charles W., John E. and Bertie D.

Geo. W. Shepley was born at Bideford, York county, Maine, July 11, 1839, where he lived until 16 years of age, when he went to Reading, Massachusetts, and engaged with George Bachelder, a cabinet maker, to learn the trade. He remained there two years, then went to Boston, and worked as house carpenter one season, and then engaged in the Atlantic machine shops as pattern maker one year, then for one year worked in McKays & Alden's machine shop. He then engaged in the navy yard at Charlestown, and was employed there the greater part of the time until 1862, when he returned to Maine. He enlisted there early in 1863 in the Eighth Regiment, Maine Volunteers. He acted as recruiting officer until fall, then went to Hilton Head, South Carolina. The vessel was partially wrecked on the way and he was seriously injured and sent to the hospital, where he was confined five months. He was discharged on account of disability in 1864, and returned to Maine, where he remained until 1865, then went to Boston, and again engaged in the Atlantic machine shop until 1866, then came to Austin and engaged one year in the sale of agricultural implements. In 1867 he had charge of the construction of Aldeson's grist mill in the present site of Engle's mill, and had charge of the work again when the mill was remodeled. He was married in 1862 to Eunice T. Bickford. She was born in the town of Dayton, York county, Maine. They have two children, named Vietta and Willie E.

C. E. Carter is one of the prominent farmers and stock growers of Mower county. His

farm consists of the south half of section 5, and other land adjoining, constituting 500 acres in a body. He made his settlement and began his improvements in 1872. He purchased his first land, a quarter section, of Rev. Monroe, and has gradually increased the dimensions of his farm to its present limits. Mr. Carter has expended much time, labor and money, to make beautiful his surroundings; he has given special attention to the planting of evergreen and other trees, which are at the same time, protective, beautiful and attractive. His place, though comparatively new, under his skillful and careful management is fast becoming one of the finest to be found in the country. Notably among his improvements is his barn, which he erected in 1879, at a cost of \$2,000. It is in the form of an octagon, with a stone basement, and has a ground area of thirty-two hundred feet. Mr. Carter devotes considerable attention to the raising of thoroughbred stock, his favorite breed of cattle being the Shorthorns or Durham stock. He has a number of fine specimens of these famous cattle, and is increasing the number as opportunity permits. Mr. Carter has, without doubt, one of the finest stock farms in the county.

He is a native of Courtland county, New York, where he was born in 1830, but was reared to manhood in Oneida county. He was engaged in civil engineering for many years. He came west in July, 1857; he was engaged on the preliminary survey of the Minnesota Central R. R., and for four years was engaged on the Chicago & Alton R. R., with his residence at Bloomington. From 1865 to 1870, was engaged as engineer in

deepening the Illinois and Michigan canal. He settled here permanently in 1872, married Laura Buck, born in Ohio. They have three children, Edith, Edward and George.

Adam E. Christie, resides on section 5. His farm consists of 120 acres of the northeast quarter, and 40 acres of the northwest quarter of the same section. It was formerly railroad land, and bought by Mr. Christie of the R. R. Co., in 1869. Mr. Christie came to Freeborn county in the fall of 1865, and to Mower county, in 1868. He is a native of the State of Vermont, where he was born in 1839. In 1852, he removed with his father, Adam J. Christie, to Adams county, Wisconsin.

The latter afterward removed to Marquette county, Wis., and thence to Freeborn county, Minnesota, where he lived about ten years, when he took up his residence in Austin, where he died in February, 1884.

Mr. Christie enlisted at Portage City, Wis., in December, 1861, in Company D, Nineteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served till August, 1865, a period of nearly four years. He served in the Eighteenth army corps, commanded by General Baldy Smith.

At the battle of Fair Oaks, October, 1864, he was severely wounded in the face and taken prisoner. He was taken to Libby prison, Richmond, where he was confined till the following March, when he was paroled. His wound added very much to his sufferings while confined in Libby.

Colonel R. M. Strong, of his regiment, was taken prisoner at the same time, and was also confined in Libby prison, and having money in his possession kindly contributed

to the relief of Mr. Christie as far as possible. His regiment lost heavily at the battle above mentioned, losing nine officers and 145 men, out of 185 men engaged.

Mr. Christie returned from the army with health much impaired. He has never recovered his former strength, and is practically disqualified for manual labor.

After the war he came to Freeborn county, where his father had removed, coming to Mower county, as before mentioned, in 1868. His brother, John P. Christie, enlisted in the Second regiment Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was taken prisoner at the first battle of Bull Run, and confined in Libby prison, where he died.

A younger brother enlisted in the same regiment later in the war, and served under General Grant till the close of the war.

Two other brothers, Rev. Alexander Christie, a Catholic clergyman, and Dr. George Christie, reside at Waseca in this State.

Mr. Christie married Helen Gates, a daughter of David Gates, an early settler of Freeborn county, now living in Austin. Mr. and Mrs. Christie have seven children, three sons and four daughters.

James M. Sterling resides on section 4; has a farm which contains 120 acres, which he bought from J. M. McFeltridge in the spring of 1872. Mr. Sterling was born in Chenango county, New York, in 1855; was raised a farmer and lived on the homestead until the death of his parents, Lord and Polly (Palmer) Sterling, who were natives of Connecticut. In 1852 he married Helen M. Eldridge, daughter of Lyman and Adelpia Eldridge, who came to Minnesota in 1868, from Courtland county, New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Sterling have three children; Nellie G., wife of N. F. Banfield, of the First National Bank of Austin. Edward, locomotive fireman in the employ of the C. M. & St. Paul R. R. Co. Worthy S., who assists on the farm. Mr. Sterling is a model farmer as his surroundings testify.

John Hickock, the present Assessor of the town of Austin, is a native of Ohio, born in the town of Perry, in that part of Geauga now known as Lake county. When he was quite young his parents moved to Painsville, and lived there until he was 16 years of age, when he came to Wisconsin, and located in the town of Brooklyn, Green county, where he was joined by his parents a few months later. He made his home there with his parents, until 23 years of age, when he was joined in marriage to Miss C. S. Bennett. She was born in Franklin county, New York. Four children have blessed this union, named Alden A., Elbert H., Etta A., and Lulu Belle.

At the time of their marriage they settled on the homestead in Brooklyn, and lived there until 1863, then came to Mower county and purchased the place they now occupy in the southwest quarter of section 25. Mr. Hickock was first elected assessor in 1872, and has been continuously elected since, with the exception of one year.

Gordon C. Adams resides on the northwest quarter of section 26. He purchased the land of S. G. Woodard, in the fall of 1879. Mr. Adams has one hundred and sixty acres in this farm; also, owns forty acres in the southeast quarter of the same section, and also has eighty acres in section 30. This is one of the pleasant places in

this township. Much labor was expended by the former owner, in beautifying the grounds, surrounding the house with evergreens and other varieties of trees, but sadly neglected his improvements for a year or two previous to selling out. Mr. Adams has spent a good deal of money in improving the place, etc. His barns and other out buildings are the best to be found in the township. Mr. Adams was born the town of Orwell, Vermont, in 1823, and removed with his parents to Benson, Rutland county, where he was reared to the occupation of farming. In 1850, he went to the city of Brooklyn, New York, and engaged in the retail lumber trade, where he remained seven years, and was then engaged with the New York and Brooklyn saw mill and lumber company for ten years, and seven years of that time he was superintendent and treasurer of the company. And for the succeeding fourteen years he was with the South Brooklyn saw mill company, and was superintendent, secretary and treasurer, nearly all that time. Several years previous to the time, Mr. Adams settled here, he had visited Austin, and was pleased with the country, and especially with the farm that he afterwards bought, and on retiring from business decided on making this his future home. He was married in Vermont, to Harriet M. Watson, who died in the city of Brooklyn. His second wife was Ella M. Squires, also a native of Vermont. His present wife was formerly Mattie Allan, and was born at Whitehall, Green county, Illinois. Mr. Adams has one child by his second marriage, Hattie M., and lost one son, Alfred, at the age of two years.

David O. Pratt, one of the survivors of

Andersonville prison, was born in the town of Montville, Geauga county, Ohio, in 1834, where his younger days were spent on the farm. In 1854, he emigrated to Wisconsin, and settled in the town of Brooklyn, Green county, and lived there until 1860, then came to Mower county and purchased the land which he now occupies, in section 36. He enlisted in August, 1862, in Co. C., of the 9th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and went south. He was captured at the battle of Guntown, Miss., June 11, 1864, was landed in Andersonville prison the 24th of that same month, and was confined there six months and six days, when he was paroled and reported at Annapolis, where he received a furlough. He was afterward exchanged and started on his return to his regiment; he was taken sick on the way and sent to the hospital at Benton barracks, St. Louis. He was discharged the 24th of June, returned home and resumed farming. He was married in 1858, to Angelina Spooner; she was born in the town of Poultney, Rutland county, Vermont. They have six children, named Endora J., Carrie B., Fred G., Edna J., Frank H., Cleo L.

James K. Sayles settled on the southeast quarter of section 25, in 1870. He had bought the land in 1861, but it was unimproved until the time of his settlement. He built a fine house, planted a grove, and made his home there, until the time of his death. He was born in Burrellville, Rhode Island, October 7, 1822. When he was young, his parents moved to Tioga county, Pennsylvania, where he lived until ten years of age, when he returned to Rhode Island, where he engaged in a machine shop to learn the trade. In 1845, he went to Lowell, Massachusetts,

where he worked at his trade three years, then he returned to Tioga county, where he was married, October 7th, 1851, to Lorinda Brown. She was born in Tioga county, New York. They resided in Westfield township, Tioga county, until 1853, when they moved to Lowell, where he resumed work at his trade. His health failed, and two years later they returned to Westfield, where he purchased a hotel, which he managed seven years. In 1866 they moved to Missouri for a short time, then located in La Porte county, Indiana, where he worked at his trade until 1869, then came to Mower county, and engaged at his trade in LeRoy, remaining there until 1870. His death occurred January 24, 1882. Mrs. Sayles now resides in Austin. She has one son named Cyrus B.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The subject of education received attention in an early day. The first school of which we could learn within the present limits of the town was taught in the winter of 1856-57, in Robert Andis' building.

There are now four full districts in the township.

#### DISTRICT NO. 26.

The first school in this district was taught in M. J. Woodson's house, by his son, Henry Woodson, in the summer of 1858. The teacher received \$10 per month for his services. James Johnson taught the second term of school in the same house. In 1859 a log house was erected on the northeast quarter of section 10. George and Oliver Bemis gave the logs, which were cut and drawn to the spot by M. J. and W. A. Woodson and H. VanWinkle. Abby Litchfield

was the first teacher in that house. The log house was in use for a number of years. The present house in which George Emery was the first teacher, is a neat frame building located on the southwest corner of section 11.

#### DISTRICT NO. 28.

This district was organized at a meeting held at the house of D. L. Chandler, in the winter of 1856-57. Welcome Osborne, D. L. Chandler and George Phelps were the first officers of the district. In the summer of 1857 a log school house was built, located on the northeast of the southeast of section 32. Delang Richardson was the first teacher in that house, which was in use but five years, when the present house was built, located on the southwest of section 28. Mary Hoag was the first to teach in that house.

#### DISTRICT NO. 29.

The first school house in the district was erected in 1857. The people made a bee, cut the trees, drew the logs together and erected the building. Money was raised by subscription to complete the building. Delang Richardson was the first to teach in this house. The building was located in the southeast of section 23. In 1864 the building was burned and a stone house was erected on the southwest of the northwest of section 25. Forest Marsh was the first teacher in that house. In 1879 that building was torn down and a frame building erected, which cost \$1,000. Mary Hood was the first to teach in this house.

#### DISTRICT NO. 55.

The first school in this district was taught by Elizabeth Stone, in a claim shanty located

on the southwest of section 8. This was in 1865. In 1869 a frame building was erected for school purposes, located on the southeast of the northwest of section 17. Mary Scullen was the first to teach in this house.

Religious meetings were held in an early day at the house of Jeremiah Phelps, in the town of Lyle. Rev. Phelps, an itinerant Methodist preacher, was the first to hold forth. As soon as the log school house was built on section 32 the meetings were held there. Among the early preachers were Elders Mapes, Beach, Loomis and John Dyer. The latter was an evangelist, or exhorter. He held a series of protracted meetings at the log school house, assisted by Rev. Alanson Beach. A number were converted and a class organized. The following were among the members: W. Means, Welcome Osborne and wife, John Osborne and wife, Welcome Chandler and wife, Thomas Phelps and wife, Jeremiah and Diadaena Phelps, Jacob Eppler and wife, Joshua Welch and wife, John Chandler and Joshua Eppler. This class has always met to worship in the school house in district No. 25. The first pastor of this class was Rev. Mapes. The present pastor is Rev. Willis Ticknor, who took charge in May, 1883. He is a native of York State, born in Cataaugus county, April 12, 1854. When he was but a few months old his parents emigrated to Iowa and settled in Henry county, where the family lived nearly thirteen years, when they moved to Warren county. The subject of our sketch made his home with his parents until he was 19 years of age, when he returned to Henry county and engaged in farming and teaching music until the spring

of 1879, when he came to Minnesota and located at Redwood. He had been licensed to preach in Henry county in 1878. In Redwood he engaged in teaching and various other pursuits until the time of his coming to Austin to take charge of the Austin circuit, where he had five appointments. He was joined in marriage in 1881 to Ida J. Byington, a native of Jackson county, Iowa. They have one child, named Ethel J.

The first white child born within the present limits of the town of Austin, was Annette Powers, daughter of Calvin and Mercy (Beebe) Powers, September 22, 1855. She is now the wife of Austin Felch, a resident of the town of Marshall.

The first white male child born in the town was Colbert, son of A. S. and Jane (Beebe) Lott, October 10, 1855. He still resides with his parents.

In 1867, Rev. Carver, a Methodist preacher, then stationed at Austin, preached in the school house, in district No. 55, and organized a class there. Among the members were W. Hall and wife, R. H. Densmore and wife, G. W. Clough and wife, J. N. Patterson and wife and John King and wife. J. N. Patterson was elected class leader. Meetings were held once in two weeks for a few years. Some of the members of this class have moved away, and those remaining have joined with the churches at Austin or Cedar City.

In 1859, John Fake and Alonzo Fairbanks, purchased the steam saw mill, located east of the Cedar river, on the southwest quarter of section two. In the spring of 1860, they put in one set of buhrs, and prepared to make flour. Mrs. Dr. Fairbanks

made the bolt for this mill, she also made bread from the first flour made there. At that time the mill had neither smut nor cockle machines, and consequently the bread made by Mrs. Fairbanks from the first flour, was hardly fit to eat. They afterward procured the necessary machinery, and made very good flour. In 1861, Fake & Fairbanks sold the mill to Joseph Beaugard, who operated it for a time. The saw mill and engine was afterward moved to Freeborn county, while the flour machinery was put into Gregson's mill.

The first marriage ceremony in Austin township celebrated the nuptials of Caleb Stock and Mary Walkins. The ceremony took place at the home of the bride's parents, in section 33; Sylvester Smith, justice of the peace, officiated. The couple now resides at Mitchell, Iowa, and are the parents of four children.

#### ELLIS STOCK FARM.

This farm contains upward of 700 acres of land, a portion of which adjoins the City of Austin. A. V. Ellis, the proprietor, is a native of York State. He settled on this farm in 1857; he was the first man to introduce fine stock into the Northwest. He raises thoroughbred Holstein stock, of which he has a large herd.

#### CEDAR CITY CEMETERY.

This cemetery is pleasantly located on the south one-half of section 32, and contains three-fourths of an acre of land. It was surveyed in 1879 by G. H. Clough, and contained at that time 42 lots, 18x20. Since that time there has been an addition of 12 lots. This was used as a burial place a num-

ber of years before it was platted. The first burial here was that of a man named Robinson, assistant editor of the Mower County *Mirror*. It is under the management of the following Board of Trustees: D. L. Chanler, Andrew Gemmel and Evan Walkins.

#### RED CEDAR MILLS.

These mills are located on the southeast of section 15, were built in 1867 and 1868, by Jonathan Gregson. As first built the building was 22x40 feet, with a shed attached. Was furnished with two run of stone and other necessary machinery at that time in use. In 1875 the building was enlarged and one run of stone added for grinding feed. In 1879 the building was again enlarged to its present proportions, 40x56 feet. Mr. Gregson was the first to introduce the roller system into Mower county, he having put one set of rollers in as early as 1878. He has since that time made it a full roller mill. It is now furnished with four single set and two double set of rollers, and two run of stone for middlings. This is one of the best powers on the river. The dam is built of rock and timber, with rock bottom and banks. This dam secures a fall of 13 feet.

#### MOWER COUNTY MILLS.

This mill was first built by Jonathan Gregson and William Gutherless in 1862-63. They put in a dam of stone and logs and secured eight feet head of water. They erected a stone building 30x30, two stories in height with basement. They put in one run of buhrs and other machinery for making first-class flour. The first flour was made in September, 1863. In the winter of 1863-64 another run of buhrs was put in. In April,

1865, the building fell with a crash and Mr. Gutherless was buried in the ruins. He was severely injured, but no bones were broken. That same year Mr. Gregson erected a frame building on the old site. The building was 28x40 feet, and was furnished with two run of buhrs. In 1869 General Rusk, of Wisconsin, purchased the mill. W. H. Officer, the present proprietor of the mill, was associated with General Rusk in the purchase of the mill, and took charge at that time. He has added to the mill, which is now furnished with four sets of buhrs and two sets of rollers. The mill has a reputation for doing excellent work. Wm. M. Officer, a son of the owner and an excellent miller, has charge of the mill.

FIRST MILL IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD KNOWN AS CEDAR CITY.

This mill was a novel affair, constructed by Welcome Chandler in 1857. He took a hollow log, which he sunk a short distance into the ground, resting the end on a solid foundation. Over this mortar, as it might be called, he suspended a pole balanced on a post with a weight on one end and a pestle of hard wood swinging over the mortar. The corn, after having first been dried in an oven, was put into this mortar and crushed to meal. This mill served a good purpose and was resorted to by the neighbors, who had previously been grating the corn. The grater used by them was of their own make, usually an old tin pan with holes in it made by driving a nail through.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### THE CITY OF AUSTIN.

Austin, the county seat of Mower county, is situated on sections 2 and 3, of township 102, range 18, west. It is three miles from the western line of the county and mid-way north and south, and is within Austin township. It is built on both the east and west banks of the Cedar river, which rises in Dodge county, to the north and flows south into the State of Iowa. It had in 1884 a population of about 2,500.

It was laid out in the fall of 1855, by Chauncey Leverich and A. B. Vaughan, and

regularly platted in the spring of 1856, by Chauncey Leverich, A. B. Vaughan and Washington Mason.

The town site of Austin is a charming one, especially in mid-summer, when from the dome of the magnificent court house, one may view the farming country for many miles around. There are but few places of its size and wealth, that are as well and substantially built, both as to its public and private buildings. It is settled largely by American people, a great number of whom came

from the Eastern and New England States. Among the finest attractions of the city is the elegant new court house, which was completed, March 1, 1884. This, together with the magnificent school buildings attracts the attention of the stranger as he comes to the place by rail, from either the north or the south. The position which they occupy is elevated and commanding, and are perfect models of architectural beauty. Besides these public structures, there are several commodious church edifices, the steeples of which are but true indexes of the moral and religious sentiment of the city's populace. Being surrounded, as it is, with a fine farming country, it has already secured a large trade, which is steadily increasing, under the enterprising and liberal spirit manifested upon the part of the tradesmen of the place. The city has excellent hotel facilities, which of itself is no small aid in a commercial point of view. Two lines of railway now enter the place, and the third is being now constructed. The Iowa & Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road, extending from St. Paul to McGregor, Iowa, and another branch of the same company, extends from Austin to Mason City, Iowa, there connecting with the great Milwaukee system.

An hour's stroll through the various streets and avenues of the city will reveal to the eye of an observer a goodly number of fine residences, built upon as charming grounds as can be found in Southern Minnesota. Nearly every street of any importance is beautifully decorated by broad, stately shade trees of various varieties, including hard maple, elm and box-elder, of the cultivated trees, and

here and there throughout the place, will be seen a clump of giant oaks, whose branches have been tossed to and fro by the tempestuous winds of more than a hundred winters.

As one views the city to-day, with all of its fine surroundings and acquaints himself with the business men and marks the vim and energy with which they take hold of new branches of industry, he is led to believe that Austin is yet destined to become a place of more than ordinary note.

#### SETTLEMENT.

The first settler on the present site of the city of Austin, was Austin Nichols, who came here late in 1853, or early in 1854. But little is known of him, except that he was a bachelor and apparently a frontiersman, going ahead of civilization, squatting on good claims, which he would sell as opportunity offered, and again push to the frontier. He sold his claim in 1854, to Chauncy Leverich. Leverich was a young man, from twenty-five to thirty years of age, naturally bright and ambitious, with an eye to business. He pre-empted 160 acres of land, described as follows: The south one-half, of the northwest quarter, of section 3, and the southeast of the southeast quarter, of the same section, and the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 2. The latter piece of land included the mill site. He immediately commenced building a saw mill, which was completed early the next year. He started in business with good prospects, but his career was suddenly brought to an end in 1856. During the same year, 1854, the following named came: D. J. Tubbs, Benedict Brown, Robert Dobbins, David L.

and Willard Smith, and a man named Pinkham.

Mr. Tubbs was born in Steuben county, New York, in 1825. When twelve years of age, he with his parents moved to Pennsylvania. He learned the trade of a millwright and followed that occupation for many years. On coming to this county he entered and bought land in this vicinity, but continued to work at his trade. He built a saw mill in 1854 on the site of the present flouring mill of Engle & Co. In 1856 he built a saw mill for himself about one and a half miles south of Austin on the Cedar River. These were among the first mills erected in Mower county. Mr. Tubbs for many years has been engaged in contracting and building. In 1869-70 he erected the present public school building of Austin. He married Elizabeth Ellsworth, a native of Tioga county, Pennsylvania. They have six children—Warren E., Alice, Marian, Elmer, Jessie and Daniel Jr. The father of Mr. Tubbs, with his wife, came to Mower county in 1865 and settled in the town of Austin. Afterwards removed to the town of Lyle, where they both died in 1879.

Brown was a son of Aloysius Brown. He erected a small frame building near Fay R. Smith's residence and entertained travelers for a time. He pre-empted the northwest of section 3. In January, 1856, he sold three forties of this land to Yates & Lewis. He remained a resident of the place two or three years. He afterwards engaged in farming in Lansing. In 1879 he removed to Dakota.

Dobbins claimed the southwest of section 3. In the fall of 1855 he sold to David Ol-

iver. He then went to Lansing and later to Clarksville, Butler county, Iowa.

David L. Smith was born in Genesee county, New York, January 22, 1820; was but six years of age when his parents moved to Canada, and settled in what is now Brandt county, Province Ontario. After he had grown to manhood he returned to York State, where he spent one year. After this he spent one year in Canada, and two years in Michigan. He then went to Long Island, and embarked on a whaling vessel, and followed the sea two years, after which he spent about two years in New York City, then returned to Canada, where he was joined in marriage in 1851, to Emma Tierney. In 1854 they started in a prairie schooner to seek a home in the territory of Minnesota. He arrived at Chauncy Leverich's house on the 19th of October. He had left his family in Fayette county, Iowa. After remaining here two weeks, returned for his family, bringing them to Mower county. They spent the winter on the present site of the city of Austin. In the spring of 1855 he built a cabin on his claim in the town of Lansing; lived there a few months, then purchased eighty acres in section 2, town of Austin, where he lived ten years, when he sold and bought his present farm in section 5, town of Windom. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are the parents of ten children, Maggie, James D., Nellie A., Nina E., Agnes E., David S., Mary A., Frank A., Elihu B., Minnie S.

Willard, brother of David L., spent the winter of 1854-5 in Austin. He afterward settled in section 2, where he resided until the time of his death.

But little is known of Pinkham, as he

stopped here but a short time. Late in 1854, or early in 1855, Winfield Loveland and Francis Stuhfell came; Loveland was a blacksmith by trade. He purchased a piece of land now occupied by Judge G. M. Cameron, and there erected a set of log buildings. He was a lover of fast horses, and was the owner of a running horse that was so well trained, that after having been once led over a piece of road, he would go over the same stretch to beat another horse or against time without any rider. Loveland remained here but two or three years. After his removal the stable which he had used was taken down, and moulds for making gold and silver coins were found secreted between the logs. It was remembered that he had several times passed counterfeit money, but had always willingly redeemed it, and thus avoided trouble. Stuhfell was a Canadian Frenchman. He purchased the lot now occupied by Sylvester Smith's family. He erected a shanty and made shingles for a time. In the fall of 1855 he sold to Sylvester Smith and located elsewhere. He went away with Loveland. A part of the time while living here he kept a saloon. The people who spent the winter of 1854-55 here, were obliged to subsist to quite an extent on wild game, which was quite abundant.

The spring of 1855 opened with brighter prospects, quite a number of settlers coming that year. Among those that came were the following: George and Oliver Bemis, J. B. Yates, V. P. Lewis, Sylvester Smith, Levi Watrous, Abe Haling and Wild Cat Brown, G. W. Mason and a man named Hayes. The Bemis brothers were natives of York State, shoemakers by trade. George came first,

he settled on the lot east of Sylvester Smith's place; was one of the men prominently connected with the "stealing of the county seat." He was an honored resident of the county until 1869, when he removed to Utah, where he engaged in mining. His death occurred there in August, 1884, which is referred to by the *Transcript* as follows:

"We hear of the death of another of Austin's first settlers. A telegram came here last week Tuesday to his brother Oliver, bearing the sad tidings. George came to Austin in May, 1855, where he remained until fifteen years ago, when he left Austin with his family for Utah, settling in Bingham Canyon, where he resided at the time of his death, August 11th. His disease was consumption, and he was 58 years of age. He leaves a wife and eight children; six of the children were born in Austin. Mr. Bemis was a member of the Baptist church when a resident here, was an honest, honorable man, and highly respected by all the old settlers of Austin."

Oliver J. Bemis was born at Paris Hill, Oxford county, Maine, April 20, 1829. When he was but two years old his parents moved to Penobscot county in the same State, where he grew to manhood. When he was twenty years of age he went to Wisconsin, remaining two years, then went to California. Starting from Rock county he went over the plains with ox teams, commencing his journey the 15th day of April, arriving at his destination the 28th day of August. He engaged in mining in Siera county. In 1855, he returned east via the Isthmus; he visited friends in Maine, until August of that year, when he came to Austin. He pre-empted 160 acres of land close by the City of Austin, built a board shanty, and broke a few acres. He sold the land the following year and purchased in section

11, in Austin township. Three or four years later he sold, and bought his present farm in section 3, in the town of Windom. He was married in 1859, to Elizabeth Vandergrift. She was born in Philadelphia. They had seven children.

Yates and Lewis were both natives of York State, and of a speculative turn of mind, and were engaged in business here for many years. Yates is still a resident of Austin. Lewis remained here until 1882, when he removed to Hopkins, Missouri, where he is engaged in mercantile trade.

Smith was from Canada, he purchased Stuhfell's place. He soon became prominent in county affairs; he remained a resident of Austin until his death.

Haveling was a blacksmith by trade, was one of a roving disposition, remained here but a short time. Wild Cat Brown was a frontiersman of the roughest type. Civilization did not seem to agree with him, so he left in 1856. Mason purchased an interest in the town plat from Leverich. It was he with Vaughan that had the race to Frankford, to beat Yates and Lewis, and get their plat recorded first, but like others that raced with the same parties got left.

Watrous was from Iowa and with his brother had a claim in section 12. He lived here about two years. The people here were afterwards surprised to learn that he had been converted and entered the ministry. He was a chaplain in the army. The last heard from, he was near Elkader, Iowa, pastor of an Adventist church. It is said that in the spring of 1855 Watrous, Leverich and Mason were one day sitting under a tree speculating as to the future of the place,

and during the conference named it Austin, in honor of Austin Nichols, the first settler. The place at the time was known as Leverich's mill.

Hayes was generally called Black Hayes, to distinguish him from G. B. Hayes. He was a speculator in land; remained here but a short time.

In 1856 the following named came: J. H. McKinley, Charles Ferris, George E. Wilbour, Solomon Snow, R. L. and W. S. Kimball, Orlenzer and Ormanzo Allen, Joshua L. Davidson, Hiram L. Coon, G. B. Hayes, D. B. Johnson, Jr., Aaron S. Everest, G. M. Cameron, Colbert C. Hanchett, Loyal W. Sprague, Dr. J. N. Wheat, Rev. Stephen Cook and his son John F., Harvey M. Allen, Samuel Little, S. W. Rice, Luther S. Morgan, James C. Ackley, Albert Gallo-way and L. N. Griffith.

McKinley came early in the spring and purchased a frame building which he opened as a hotel, the first in the place. He managed it but a few months when he sold and moved to Mitchell county, Iowa.

Ferris was McKinley's son-in-law. He came at the same time and went away with him. He was a carpenter by trade.

Snow and Wilbour were from Massachusetts. They bought the hotel from McKinley and entertained travelers three years, when William returned to Massachusetts. In 1869 he came back and is still a resident of Austin. Snow now lives in Chicago.

The Kimball brothers, natives of New Hampshire, came from Illinois in April. They soon opened the first hardware store in the place. R. L. now lives in Minneapolis, and W. S. at Jackson, Minnesota.

Orlenzer and Ormanzo Allen were twin brothers, natives of York State, and came here from Wisconsin. The former was a physician, the first to locate in Austin. He practiced here until 1870, when he moved to Mitau, Rock county, Wisconsin, where he since died. Ormanzo was a lawyer by profession. He came in the month of July and has since made this his home.

Joshua I. Davidson was born in New Hampshire, in December, 1812. When a boy he moved with his parents to Alleghany county, New York, in the town of New Hudson, near Cuba. He married in his young manhood Phœbe Ann Woodford, who was own cousin to Lucius Robinson, Ex-Governor of New York. Five or six years after their marriage they moved west, settling in Lake county, Illinois, near Chicago. He there engaged in farming; after four years there he removed to Rockford, Illinois. This was about 1851, and he remained there till 1855, during which time he made several trips into the great northwestern territory, of which Minnesota is now a part. In the spring of 1855 he came to Winona, Minn., where he purchased a large interest in the town site of that city. His wife died the spring he left Rockford, 1855, and November 24, 1856, in Fond du Lac, Wis., he married his second wife, Mrs. H. Attilia Albro. In the early spring of 1856 he came to Austin, and bought large interests, among which was the land known as "Davidson's addition to Austin." He was a speculator in real estate, and a busy worker at whatever his hands found to do. He moved his family to Austin in the spring of 1857, having already, in company with John F. Cook, D.

M. V. Stuart and H. C. Bolcom, built the first frame building of any size. This was known as the "Headquarters." The pine lumber used in the erection of this old landmark was hauled from Winona, a distance of nearly a hundred miles. During the civil war he built the Davidson House—the second hotel of the place. He leased this property until the last year of his life, when he operated it himself.

Mr. Davidson was an earnest, even radical Christian man, possessing large sympathy and a generous nature; he had many friends. His kind words to the erring will long be remembered. He was one of the original members of the first Congregational church at Winona, and also one of the founders of the same society at Austin. He was Deacon of the Austin church from the time of its organization until the time of his death, which occurred February 27, 1873. He donated the lots upon which the Congregational church now stands at Austin.

On the first Sabbath in January, 1873, he officiated as Deacon in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Reference was made upon that occasion, to members of the church recently deceased, and the question asked, "Who shall go next?" No one looking at the stalwart form of Deacon Davidson, would have singled him out as most likely to be called hence, or dreamed that before another ordinance was administered, his lifeless remains would lie awaiting burial! but such was the case. He is indeed worthy of grateful mention in this history, as one of Minnesota's pioneers, who was an arduous worker and a man of a pure heart and life. Four of his family preceded him to the grave:



L. O. Basford

Mrs. Davidson, the mother of his children, who died in 1855, at Rockford, Illinois; Edson W., who died at Austin, in 1860, aged 19; Herman R., in St. Charles, Ill., in 1864, aged 26; Augustus B., in Austin, 1868, aged 28. In 1884, the only survivors of the family were his second wife, Mary Adella, (Mrs. W. T. Manderville) and Charles H., editor the *Transcript*.

Coon was a physician; he remained but a short time. He now lives at Northfield. Hayes was a native of New Hampshire, he was the leading merchant of Austin for some years. He is still a resident of the city. Johnson, Everest and Cameron, all lawyers by profession. The two former were natives of York State, the latter of Canada. Johnson and Cameron are still residents of the city, both actively engaged in the practice of their chosen profession. Hanchett and Sprague came from Wisconsin, and engaged in mercantile trade, in which they continued about three years. Hanchett was afterward in the army as a sutler. He died in the South during the war. The last heard from Sprague, he was at Whitewater, Wisconsin. Wheat was a native of New Hampshire, a physician. He has practiced here the most of the time since. Ackly purchased a one-fourth interest in the village plat. He afterward engaged in the boot and shoe trade. After the war he moved to Southern Missouri, and later to Atchinson, Kansas, where he has since died. His widow still lives there.

Albert Galloway was born in the town of Newburg, Orange county, New York, October 6, 1822. His younger days were spent in school and on the farm. He made his home in Orange county, until twenty-four

years of age, when he went to Corning, Steuben county, where he was engaged in the lumber business six years; later went to Port Burwell, Canada West. He lived there until 1856, when he started for Minnesota, intending to locate at Minneapolis. While on the boat between Dunleith and Winona, he met friends who induced him to go to Chatfield with them. They started from Winona on foot and walked to Chatfield, after a short stop there, they proceeded on their journey and walked to Frankford. He there procured a ride to Austin; this was in the fall of 1856. He immediately pre-empted a claim in section 17, town 102, range 18. He proved up on that claim in November of that year, and engaged during the following winter as clerk in Hanchett & Sprague's store. In 1857, he formed a partnership with D. B. Johnson, Jr., and engaged in mercantile business. He had cut some logs, which he sawed at Leverich's mill, and erected the store building, which is located east of the postoffice, and now used as a restaurant. The lumber for siding and floor he drew from Winona. Galloway & Johnson dissolved partnership about one year later, after which Mr. Galloway continued in business alone, carrying a good stock of goods. He remained in business, until 1868. The greater part of the time since, he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits. Previous to going out of business, he had purchased sixty acres of land in section 3, now included in the corporation. It was here he settled and now lives. He has 320 acres of land in section 24, Austin township, including the east one-half of that section, besides owning considerable city property. He was joined in marriage, in Novem-

ber, 1860, to Rosetta Carter, of Shefford county, Canada. Two children blessed the union, William A., Ellen R. Mrs. Galloway died January 1st, 1865. His second wife, to whom he was married June 8, 1868, was Amy M. Carter, widow of James Darrah. She was born in Shefford county, Canada. They have two children, Bertie and Charles F. Mrs. Galloway has one child by her first marriage, Minnie Darrah.

Griffith was born in Alleghaney county, New York, November 18, 1824. He removed, when a child, to Lorain county, Ohio. He was postmaster of Austin post-office from 1857 to 1858, was also justice of the peace for many years.

Others that were known to have been here as early as 1856 were Dennis Crandall, John E. Hallett, Samuel Wheeler, C. P. Carpenter, Charles and George Bodle, J. M. V. Stuart, John M. Fleming, A. W. Billings.

Hallett engaged for a time clerking in Yates & Lewis' store; Stuart and Fleming were from Canada; the former had money to invest in land. After two or three years he moved to Kansas. Fleming was a young man with a good education. He was for a time deputy Register of Deeds. He remained a resident of Austin until the time of his death, which occurred in an early day. Charles Bodle remained here two or three years, during which time he drove stage; Carpenter was also a stage driver. Two or three years later he went back to New Hampshire, where he lived a few years, then returned to Austin, where he since died.

#### PLATTED.

In the fall of 1855, Chauncy Leverich and A. B. Vaughan staked out a village on the

southeast quarter, of the northeast quarter, of section 3, but did not properly survey and record the same. On the 16th day of April, 1856, J. B. Yates and V. P. Lewis, procured the services of M. K. Armstrong, County Surveyor, and commenced to plat a village on the northwest quarter of section 3. The survey was not completed until late that evening. Vaughan & Mason (the latter having bought an interest in the plat) saw Yates and Lewis at work. Their suspicions were at once aroused, and thinking to checkmate them they also effected a regular survey of the lands which they had staked off the previous autumn, and late in the evening Mason and Vaughan (Leverich being absent) crossed the Cedar river in a boat and started on foot to Frankford, the county seat, to file their plat ahead of Yates & Lewis. But the latter party being fully equal to such an emergency, mounted their horses and rode up the river several miles, trying at various points to ford the swollen stream and get to the county seat in advance of them. The night being very dark, they finally stayed all night at Mr. John Pettibone's, in the township of Lansing. In the morning Mr. Pettibone took them across the river in his boat, while they swam their horses behind. When they came within about four miles of Frankford, they overtook Mason and Vaughan, who had started the night before on foot, and had spent the night upon the prairie, and when first seen were hurrying along at a rapid gait for the county seat, in order to have *their* plat placed on file first. Neither party had had their papers acknowledged by a Justice of the Peace, as was required by law, and when Yates and Lewis, who arrived at Frankford first, found

that the Justice of the Peace was not at home, they sent for Judge C. J. Felch to come and acknowledge their papers that they might place them on record at once.

Vaughan and Mason arrived a half hour later but were too late, as Yates and Lewis had filed a plat of "Austin." Two or three hours later Mason and Vaughan filed their plat as the "Village of Austin," thus verifying the saying, "That the first shall be last, and the last shall be first."

## RECORDED PLATS.

The following describes the filing of each plat in what now comprises Austin :

Austin, Yates & Lewis, filed April 17th, 1856. M. K. Armstrong, surveyor.

Village of Austin, April 17, 1856. A. B. Vaughan, surveyor.

Bolcom's Addition, August 25, 1856. N. F. Hilbret, surveyor.

John M. Berry's Addition, October 7th, 1856. D. B. Johnson and A. W. Billings, surveyors.

Davidson & Morgan's Addition, March 17, 1857. D. B. Johnson, surveyor.

Brown's Addition, August 6, 1857. Chas. E. Carter, surveyor.

Yates & Lewis' Addition, August 3, 1857. Daniel B. Johnson, surveyor.

Parker & Brown's Addition, August 19th, 1867. C. J. Shortt, surveyor.

Railroad Addition, January 1st, 1868. James A. Case and A. B. Rodgers, surveyors.

Palmer's Addition, December 22d, 1869. James A. Case, surveyor.

Yates' Addition to Austin, December 17th, 1872. George W. Clough, surveyor.

Fay R. Smith's Addition, November 1st, 1883. E. B. Crane, surveyor.

## INCORPORATION.

Austin was incorporated as a village in 1868, and remained as such until 1873, when by an act of the Eighteenth Legislature of Minnesota it became a city. The following served as officers under the village incorporation :

1868—George M. Cameron, mayor; L. R. Hathaway, recorder; W. I. Brown, treasurer; E. Maloney, assessor; Aaron S. Everest, Village Attorney; Jacob Johnson, B. J. Valkenburgh and J. B. Yates, aldermen.

1869—W. L. Austin, mayor; L. Bourgard, recorder; S. M. Darrah, treasurer; E. Maloney, assessor; D. B. Johnson, Jr., attorney; Olenzer Allen, J. C. Day and A. J. Phelps, aldermen.

1870—J. F. Cook, mayor; John Walsh, recorder; I. A. Wood, treasurer; R. I. Smith, assessor; G. M. Cameron, attorney; W. W. Brownson, P. B. Basford and H. S. Smith, aldermen.

1871—President of the Council, Sylvester Smith; L. N. Griffith, recorder; H. J. Gillham, treasurer; William Richards, assessor; G. M. Cameron, attorney; L. N. Griffith, H. J. Gillham, J. C. H. Huxhold, E. W. Kells and C. Clock, aldermen.

1872—G. G. Clemmer, President of the Council; Segmore Johnson, recorder; J. B. Yates, street commissioner; W. W. Brownson, treasurer; D. J. Tubbs, assessor; J. M. Greenman, village attorney; Segmore Johnson, H. J. Gillham, J. C. H. Huxhold, W. W. Brownson and G. L. Scofield, aldermen.

## OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN.

1873—President of the Council, D. B. Smith.

Aldermen—P. O. French, C. H. Beisecker, H. A. Fairbanks, Peter Gies, J. H. Benson, L. B. Abbott, J. H. Totten.

Recorder—O. H. Shepley.

Treasurer—W. T. Wilkins.

Assessor—D. J. Tubbs.

City Attorney—Isaac N. Marks.

1874—President of the Council, D. B. Smith.

Aldermen—John F. Cook, Seymour Johnson, B. F. Morgan, J. C. Kaiser, R. N. Paden, J. F. Atherton, John Bache, John Varger.

City Attorney—G. M. Cameron.

Recorder—Russ B. Davis.

Treasurer—C. W. Austin.

Assessor—Wm. Richards.

1875—President of the Council, E. C. Dorr.

Aldermen—H. E. Anderson, Antoine Frederich, P. O. French, H. I. Smith, F. J. Mayhew, Michael Collins, C. B. Stade, H. G. Machlin.

City Attorney—John T. Carey.

Treasurer—R. Dunkleman.

Recorder—R. Griffith.

Assessor—John Walsh.

1876—Mayor, P. O. French.

Aldermen—H. E. Anderson, Joseph Schwan, Oscar Ayers, E. P. Van Valkenburgh, Lewis Beckel, Thomas Meany.

Recorder—Robert Griffith.

Assessor—Wm. Richards.

Treasurer—R. Dunkleman.

1877—Mayor, F. C. Dorr.

Aldermen—Joseph Schwan, Geo. E. Wilbour, E. P. Van Valkenburgh, Joseph Rheinsmith, Thomas Meany, C. C. Kinsman.

Recorder—Robert Griffith.

Treasurer—C. A. Pooler.

Assessor—Robert McDonald.

1878—Mayor, E. P. Van Valkenburgh.

Aldermen—Geo. E. Wilbour, J. B. Yates, Joseph Rheinsmith, James McGrath, C. C. Kinsman, Thomas Meany.

Recorder—Robert Griffith.

Treasurer—C. A. Pooler.

Assessor—Oscar Ayers.

1879—Mayor, H. B. Ball.

Aldermen—Seymour Johnson, Geo. E. Wilbour, James McGrath, Harlan W. Page, Thomas Meany, Jacob Weisel.

Recorder—Robert Griffith.

Treasurer—C. A. Pooler.

Assessor—Oscar Ayers.

1880—Mayor, H. B. Ball.

Aldermen—Geo. E. Wilbour, Peter Gies, Harlan W. Page, E. J. Phillips, Jacob Weisel, A. Fairbanks.

Recorder—Robert Griffith.

Treasurer—F. R. Smith.

Assessor—E. D. Fenton.

Street Commissioner—Patrick Geraghty

Chief of Police—Thomas Riley.

1881—Mayor, E. C. Dorr.

Aldermen—Peter Gies, Geo. M. Fish, E. J. Phillips, R. O. Hall, D. J. Ames, Jacob Weisel.

Recorder—Robert Griffith.

Treasurer—F. R. Smith.

Assessor—Joseph Adams.

1882—Mayor, E. C. Dorr.

Aldermen—George M. Fish, Orris Hayes,

R. O. Hall, E. J. Phillips, Jacob Wiesel, Thomas Meaney.

Recorder—R. Griffith.

Treasurer—Fay R. Smith.

Attorney—J. M. Greenman.

Assessor—George E. Wilbour.

1883—Mayor, E. C. Dorr.

Aldermen—Orris Hayes, H. S. Smith, E. J. Phillips, R. O. Hall, Thomas Meaney, Jacob Wiesel.

Recorder—R. Griffith.

Treasurer—J. H. Patterson.

Attorney—J. M. Greenman.

1884—Mayor, E. C. Dorr.

Aldermen—N. S. Smith, Edward Dolegar, R. O. Hall, G. H. Litchfield, Jacob Wiesel, C. J. Miller.

Recorder—R. Griffith.

Treasurer—J. N. Patterson.

Attorney—E. D. Baird.

Assessor—George E. Wilbour.

E. C. Dorr, Mayor of the City of Austin, in 1884, is one of the prominent business men of the city. His residence here dates from 1866, being among the earliest men in business in the city. On coming to Austin, he engaged in the drug trade, and still continues. His store is one of the fine brick buildings on the west side of Main street, which he owns, in connection with Mr. Schleuder. Mr. Dorr is serving his sixth term as Mayor of the city, which is good evidence of his popularity and ability as an executive officer. He is a native of the Empire State, Columbia county. He came to Minnesota in 1857, locating at Rochester, coming here from that city. He was for some time during the war of the rebellion in the medical department of the provost mar-

shal office of the first district of Minnesota. Mrs. Dorr was formerly Miss Emma L. Smith, daughter of Luther J. Smith, and was born in Franklin county, New York. They have three children, Maria E., Margaret E. and Edward W.

#### THE BEGINNING.

The first move toward business here was in the fall of 1854, when Chauncy Leverich commenced the building of a saw mill, which was completed in the spring of 1855. The first store in the place was opened by A. B. Vaughan and his son P. D., who came here in the spring of 1855, bringing a stock of goods with them from Wisconsin. In 1856 they sold to Aloysius Brown and moved to Lansing. Aloysius Brown was born near Emmettsburg, Maryland, January 18, 1793. When he was but six years of age his parents emigrated to Kentucky and settled near Beardstown, where he grew to manhood, and married Elizabeth Drury. She was born near Emmettsburg, Maryland, in 1788. Being tired of clearing land in the heavy forests of Kentucky, he determined to have a farm on the prairies of the West. Their worldly goods consisted at that time of a young mare, a scanty wardrobe, an ax, a Kentucky rifle and thirty dollars in money. A neighbor presented them with an old horse which he had turned out to die. Thus equipped they started for Illinois, a distance of about 300 miles. Mrs. Brown rode the mare and carried the baby. The old horse carried their clothing and a little stock of provisions, while Mr. Brown trudged along on foot, carrying the ax, gun and money. They settled in the northern part of Grand Prairie, Edgar county, Illinois. This was in

the spring of 1817. They were within twelve miles of the northwest corner of the Ohio purchase, twenty miles from the fort at Terre Haute, Indiana. They had but three white neighbors west of the fort, but plenty of Indians. After their log cabin was built, quilts were hung up at the door and windows.

Mr. Brown left his wife and baby to keep house alone, while he went on horse back 180 miles to Fort Dearborn, the present site of Chicago, to procure glass and nails to complete his cabin, and salt to preserve the venison. While he was gone Mrs. Brown kept large fires before the door at night to keep the wolves from coming in without knocking. Mr. Brown was gone a long time and his wife feared he had been murdered. He however returned in safety. He afterward participated in the Black Hawk war. In 1845 he moved to Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1856, when he came to Austin and engaged in trade as before stated. His stock of goods was procured at Winona and McGregor, and were drawn here by ox teams. In 1857-58 the people depended upon Mr. Brown to furnish them with flour and corn meal, which was drawn from Chatfield and Decorah, Iowa. At times the roads were so bad that it was almost impossible for a team to pass over, or rather through them, and it required many days to make the journey. As soon as it was learned that teams had been dispatched for a new supply of meal, gold coin and sacks with the names of the owners and amount of meal required securely tied to each, were deposited with Mr. Brown, to make sure of a portion of the

meal. On its arrival the amounts were put into each sack and set away for those who had paid for it. The demand would sometimes exceed the supply, so the amount dealt out to each would be diminished until ten or fifteen pounds would be the most that he would sell to any one family. When the meal was all distributed and there were yet families not supplied, a raid would be made on the sacks that were filled and the contents distributed among those that had no flour or meal to eat. In one instance a Norwegian woman, having a large family, came before noon and stayed until 9 o'clock trying to buy more than fifty pounds of meal, but when she saw the last of the meal carried away by littles, she gave it up and went home. Mr. Brown was an earnest and practical member of the Catholic church, showing by his daily conduct the sincerity and depth of his convictions. He was never known to utter a profane or immodest word, and during the greater part of his life was an example of practical total abstinence. Through his influence the early visits of a priest were secured, and the first Catholic services in Austin were held at his house. He contributed liberally in money and labor to furnish material for the Catholic church in Austin. Mr. Brown's death occurred February 23, 1864; Mrs. Brown's April 3, 1868.

The second store in Austin was opened by J. B. Yates & V. P. Lewis.

#### AUSTIN POST OFFICE.

A post office was established at Austin in 1855 or '56. A. B. Vaughan was the first postmaster, and the office was kept in a frame store building, erected by Mr. Vaughan. It

was situated just east of where the Winsdor Hotel now (1884) stands. The building has been re-sided, but the original frame remains as a memento of the past.

Charles H. Davidson tells of seeing James C. Ackley, one of the early settlers of the place, mow the weeds and brush out of what is now Main street, in order to let the stage have a more direct route into the town.

P. D. Vaughan, ("Phin" usually styled,) a son of A. B. Vaughan, opened the first mail pouch in Austin. The next postmaster was L. N. Griffith. From this on, the following have served as postmasters, in the order in which they appear: V. P. Lewis, A. S. Everest, J. S. Lacy, C. J. Shortt, L. A. Sherwood, George Baird, Charles Sawyer, J. C. Smith, A. J. Phelps, C. H. Davidson, A. E. Meigs, A. A. Harwood, R. I. Smith, C. H. Davidson, and H. O. Basford.

It became a money order office in 1866. The first order was issued to James C. Ackley, remitter. Payee, F. W. Detome, Milwaukee, Wis. Amount, \$13.80. Date, August 6, 1866. The first order paid was to Ormanzo Allen. Amount, \$8.50. Date, August 13, 1866.

Full number of money orders issued to July 30, 1884, 33,140.

It became a Presidential office in 1867.

The first postal note was purchased by Prof. A. W. Rankin, drawn in favor of parties in Wisconsin, for \$4.99.

Full number issued to Aug. 1, 1884, 1163.

#### HOTELS.

The first hotel in Austin was opened by J. H. McKinley, early in 1856. Previous to this time the traveling public had been entertained at private houses, and by B. J.

Brown, who kept a boarding house. McKinley purchased from Leverich a frame building located on the present site of the Windsor House. In June of that year he sold to George E. Wilbour and Solomon Snow, who took charge in September of that year; this was then known as the Snow House, and contained eight rooms. One of these rooms was large enough for eleven beds and was called the school section. Snow & Wilbour managed the hotel until 1859, when Mr. Wilbour returned East, and Mr. Snow occupied the house for a time as a private residence, but was afterward kept a hotel by different parties. The present house—Windsor House—was completed in 1866. It is a frame house, veneered with brick, contains forty rooms. J. E. Robinson is the present manager.

George E. Wilbour, of Austin, came here in April, 1856, and remained three years, and engaged in keeping hotel known as the Snow & Wilbour House. This was the first hotel building in Austin, and was previously kept by McKinley. Mr. Wilbour was born in Newport county, Rhode Island, in 1820, where he lived until sixteen years of age, when he went to Fall River, Massachusetts. His parents died when he was about five years of age. Mr. Wilbour learned the trade of a tailor, which business he followed for many years. He was married at Fall River to Amy H. Chappell, born at Fall River, Massachusetts. Mr. Wilbour came to Minnesota for the benefit of his health. Solomon Snow came with him, with the same object in view. They continued in the hotel business for three years. At the end of this time Mr. Wilbour returned to Massachusetts,

where he had left his family, and remained there until 1869, when he returned with his family, and has lived here since that time. He has been engaged in the clothing business and farming since he returned. He has served as alderman for several terms and also as a member of the school board. He is now serving his third term as city assessor. He has one son, Charles H., who is deputy auditor of Mower county.

J. E. Robinson, manager of the Windsor house, Austin, has been a resident of Mower county since 1862, at which time he located in the town of Lansing. Mr. Robinson was born in Monroe county, New York, in 1837, and removed with his parents to Wayne county when but four years old. When a young man, he directed his attention to the study of law, and was admitted to the bar at Auburn, in 1859, and engaged in practice at Newark. He was admitted to the bar at Austin, Mower county, but did not resume practice. He served in the war of the rebellion, from November, 1863, until the close of that contest. He was in the 2nd Minnesota cavalry. After the war he taught school for a number of terms in the town of Lansing, and was also engaged in farming. He lived in the village of Lansing for some time before coming to Austin, where he was a justice of the peace for several years. He has conducted the Windsor House since 1882. His wife was Libbie Hutchingson, born in Rochester, New York. They have four children, Otis H., S. Belle, Emma Louise and John F. They lost their oldest child, William H., who died in 1879, at the age of nineteen years.

## LACY HOUSE.

In 1857, J. S. Lacy built the second hotel in the town. It was a two-story frame building with an "ell" attached. It occupied the present site of the Fleck House; Lacy sold this house to Asa Brown, who in the fall of 1865 sold to a man named Cole, who in the spring of 1866 sold to Jacob and A. M. Fleck, who raised the main part of the building and put in a basement and added a story to the "ell" part. As thus enlarged, it contained thirty rooms. In 1872, this building was destroyed by fire.

A. M. Fleck is the proprietor and manager of the Fleck House, which he built in 1872. This hotel is on the site of the "Lacy house," which was purchased by Mr. Fleck in 1866, and changed to the "Fleck House." It was burned in February, 1872, and the present hotel was erected the same season by Mr. Fleck, at a cost of sixteen thousand dollars. The hotel is a brick structure, and three stories in height above the basement, the latter being entirely above the surface of the ground. The building is seventy-two feet in length by forty feet in width, with a wing twenty-eight by thirty-two feet. Mr. Fleck is a successful and popular landlord, and his hotel is one of the best in Southern Minnesota. Mr. Fleck is a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in Somerset county, in that State, May 3rd, 1832; he went to Winona in this State, in 1855, where he engaged in the mercantile trade with P. S. Bell. In 1857 he went to Rochester, and with his father bought the Stevens House, which they kept until the fall of 1865. His father, Jacob Fleck, removed to Rochester, in 1857, with his family, consisting of wife and nine chil-

dren; he, with his wife, came here with their son, with whom they remained until their death. The father dying in 1878, at the age of seventy-two, his wife survived her husband until 1881, when she died at the age of seventy-three. Mr. Fleck married Fanny S. Waite; she was born in Cornville, Somerset county, Maine; graduated at Bates College, Lewiston. They have two children, Ethel R. and Charles E. They lost their eldest, a daughter.

#### DAVIDSON HOUSE.

This house was built in 1857-58, by Joshua L. Davidson, as a private residence. It was a commodious house and was used by him as a private residence until war times, when he made an addition and opened it to the traveling public. He managed it a year or more, then rented it to J. S. Lacy. In the year 1870 Mr. Davidson made a large addition to the house. As thus enlarged the house contains 40 rooms. In 1872 Mr. Davidson again assumed the management of the house. He died there about a year later. Since that time the house has been managed by different parties. S. F. Gibbins is the present manager.

#### RAILROAD HOTEL.

This house was built by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company in 1872. It is a frame building, brick veneered, three stories in height, and contains thirty-seven rooms. It was first managed by John McConnell & Nathan Hammond. After one year Hammond sold his interest to Joseph McConnell. The McConnell brothers were succeeded by Atherton & Sons; they by Sherwin & French, and they by Hall & Hay,

who managed it from 1881 to 1884. The present managers are Bannard & Horrabin.

#### MANSFIELD HOUSE.

The Mansfield House was built in 1879, by J. H. Mansfield, and opened by him late that year. It is a frame building three stories in height, the front veneered with brick. The house contains thirty-five rooms, most conveniently arranged. Mr. Mansfield is still the manager.

The first blacksmith in Austin was Winfield Loveland, who is spoken of as coming late in 1854, or early in 1855. He put up a shop near Judge Cameron's residence. In 1857 he moved away. During that time Abe Haveling and a man named Day, worked at the trade here for a short time. Other early blacksmiths were Samuel Rice and Llewelly and Piper.

#### MILLINERY.

The first milliner in Austin was Mrs. Sarah H. Bemis, who settled here in 1855. She was in the business until after the war.

The first butcher business in Austin was done by W. A. Woodson, in 1856. He was living about two miles from town, where he dressed the beef. He brought the meat to town in a wagon and drove from house to house to supply his customers. Steaks then sold for 25 cents per pound, and the best cuts of roast at the same price.

Eyre & Rankin opened a market here in 1865. Since that time the business has been represented by several other parties.

#### DRUGS.

The first drug store in Austin was started by Dr. Orlenzer Allen, in 1856. He closed out in war times. Dr. Brewer was the sec-

ond druggist, closely followed by Dr. Barnes. Early in 1866 Woodard & Dorr opened a drug store. J. J. and G. G. Clemmer opened a little later the same year.

#### HEADQUARTERS.

In the winter of 1856-7, the building known as headquarters was built. It was built by Joshua L. Davidson, J. F. Cook, J. M. V. Stuart, and H. C. Bolcom. It was located on Main street. The lower story was used as a store for many years. The upper story was all that can possibly be meant by the word "Headquarters!" Within this building the *Mirror*, the first paper in Mower county, was started, by David Blakely, and its newspaper honors did not close till it had been used as the office of the *Minnesota Courier*, the *Register* and *Transcript*, thus being the birth place of four of Mower counties solid journals. The first court ever held in Mower county convened here. It was also used for school and religious purposes. Some of the early settlers will remember how the pioneers came in from the country with ox teams to worship at this place. There were the old and young, and among the number might have been seen pretty maidens with their shaker bonnets, and sometimes in their bare feet. This was also the place for holding all the public gatherings, festivals, dances, etc., etc. Could its walls but speak, what a tale it would tell of days long since passed into oblivion!

In the winter of 1856-7, George B. Hayes started in mercantile business in a building located in the block east of the Windsor house. He afterward did business in the building known as "headquarters." He carried a large stock of general merchandise,

and was the leading merchant here for some time.

Hanchett and Sprague opened a general store here in 1856, in a frame building north of the Fleck House. They were in business two or three years.

George Mitchell came here from Geneva, New York, in 1857, and started the first furniture store.

Albert Galloway and D. B. Johnson, Jr., formed a partnership and opened a general store in July, 1857, in a building east of where the postoffice now stands. The next spring they dissolved, Galloway continuing in the trade until 1868. He then sold to Olfson & Peterson, who ran two years and closed out.

George and Oliver Bemis put in the first stock of boots and shoes in the spring of 1857.

In the fall of 1858 Ruford Kimball erected a small frame building and embarked in the grocery and dry goods trade, and failed the coming season.

In 1859 James Clock started a general store. He operated the store about a year when he failed.

In 1861 Henry Jacobs, a merchant tailor by trade, opened a shop here and put in a stock of ready-made clothing. He is still in business here.

Gustav Schleuder is one of the early business men of Austin. He engaged in the jewelry trade in 1863. Has been continually in business in the same line since that time, a period of twenty-one years. Of the business men of Austin to him belongs the honor of having been in trade in one line of goods the greatest number of consecutive years.

He began business in a one-story frame building, adjoining his present place of business, on the north, which he purchased and enlarged. His present store is a brick structure, which he owns in partnership with E. C. Dorr, who occupies one side of the building as a drug store. He also owns two fine brick buildings north of his place of business on Main street, known as Masonic Hall block. He also owns one of the finest brick residence in the city, which he built in 1870. It is situated on the corner of Chatham and Winona streets. He also owns other city property.

Mr. Schleuder was born in Callies, Prussia, in 1841. He came to this country in 1862, and resided, till he came here, at St. Peter, in this State, where he had a brother engaged in the jewelry business. His father, G. Schleuder, came to this country in 1864. Mrs. Schleuder was born at Callies, Prussia. They have two sons, Forest and Herbert.

F. King opened a general store here in 1863, and has been in trade the greater part of the time since. He was born at Hartford, Connecticut, in 1811. When but six years of age, he removed with his parents to Massachusetts. He afterward returned to Hartford and began his mercantile life as a clerk. In 1840, he went to Jackson, Illinois, where he started in trade for himself. He is a veteran in the business, having followed it all his life.

George M. Fish, Jr., of the mercantile firm of King & Fish, came to Austin to remain permanently, in 1878. Mr. Fish is a native of Washington county, New York, where he was born in 1854. He was raised and educated in his native State; when he was four-

teen years of age he went to Boon county, Illinois, where he remained for some time, when he returned to his native State. Mr. Fish is one of the live business men in Austin, and has been connected with various branches of business, since he came to Austin. He was for some time engaged in the hardware trade with J. F. Andrews, and also with Captain W. H. Sutton. Mrs. Fish was formerly Leah Mansfield, a daughter of Col. Mansfield, of Austin.

William J. Fish, a brother of George M. Fish, while never a permanent resident of Mower county, was well known to many of the citizens in Austin. He was a young man of excellent literary attainments—was a graduate of an Eastern college. He engaged in teaching, but declining health compelled him to relinquish teaching, and seek relief in the purer atmosphere and the more bracing climate of Minnesota. He was for some time a resident of Minnesota, and finally established himself at Miles City, engaging in the stock business, but hopes of his recovery were not to be realized, and he died at Minneapolis, May 17th, 1884, age twenty-seven years.

The following from a Vermont paper, published soon after his death, will show the estimate of his character and worth, where he was best known:

“When seventeen years of age, he entered Middleburg college, where he graduated Valedictorian in the class of 1878. On leaving college, he accepted the Principalship of Beeman Academy, at New Haven, but at the end of his first year was obliged to resign, on account of ill health. During the five years preceding his death, he had been variously employed, as his health permitted. It is no disparagement to the many illustrious sons

whom Middleburg has sent forth from her classic walls, to say that few ever enjoyed her fostering care, who were more richly endowed by nature, then the subject of this sketch, or whose early manhood gave nobler promise of future usefulness and honor. He enjoyed the confidence and esteem of all who knew him, and by his genial nature, endeared himself to their hearts, and has left many here in Vermont, as well as in his far western home, to mourn his early death."

Charles C. Hunt opened a hardware store about this time.

N. P. Austin opened a general store in 1865.

Philips & Sawyer, Smith, Baird, and others, were in trade for a short time previous to the railroad era.

#### LIVERY.

The first livery stables in Austin were started in 1864. In that year there were two stables opened; one by A. B. Davidson and William Brown, the other by E. D. and Calos Fenton.

In 1868 W. T. Mandeville succeeded to the business started by Davidson & Brown, and still continues in the business. Calos Fenton manages the business started by himself and brother.

Leonard Gillett, Joshua Davidson, Hicks and Phelps, Cobb and Son, M. C. Gratton, have engaged in the livery business here at different times.

William T. Mandeville was one of the pioneers in the town of Windom, where he settled in 1856. He is a native of York State, born in Chenango county, in 1830. His father, Malanthon Mandeville, was a native of Massachusetts, but lived the greater part of the time in York State, and died in Chenango county in 1883. His mother died in

1862. William T. located in Iowa in 1855, and taught school the following winter. He has been twice married. His first wife was Clarisa Davidson, a sister of J. L. Davidson. She was born in the town of Cuba, Alleghaney county, New York. They were married in 1858. Mrs. Mandeville died in 1867, at Southington, Connecticut, where she had gone for medical treatment. She left two children, Jennie E., now the wife of Miles Hotchkiss, of Southington, Connecticut, and Clarisa (deceased.) His present wife was Mary A. Davidson, daughter of J. L. Davidson. By this union there are five children, Phœbe Berdene, William Barney, Harry E., Clara A., Eunice E.

Coloss Fenton, a representative of the livery business at Austin, came here in June, 1863. He was born in Chautauqua county, New York, June 14, 1830. His father, William H. Fenton a native of New Hampshire, still lives in Chautauqua county, at the age of 87 years. Mr. Fenton came west to Janesville, Wis., when but 18 years of age, where he was engaged in the livery business. He came here in 1863, and with his brother, E. D. Fenton, opened a livery stable. His first location was on Chatham street. His present location is opposite the Fleck House. The lumber for building his present barn was hauled from Winona and Lake City. His wife was Sarah L. Dayton, born at Rushtford, Alleghaney county, New York. They have four sons and one daughter—W. D., Alice, Charles E., Fred and George. They have lost one daughter, Elnora.

#### ENGLE'S MILL.

This mill is owned by Job Engle & Sons. The business is conducted in the firm name

of Engle & Sons. This is a fine corrugated roller mill and was erected by the above firm in 1881. These gentlemen came to Austin in 1871 and purchased the mill, which at that time occupied the site of their present mill, which was known as Anderson's Mill. The mill at that time was a small affair, containing but one run of stone and was built by Mr. Anderson in 1864. Immediately after their purchase the present firm began reconstructing the property, and practically rebuilt the mill, enlarging the building and adding two sets of buhrs, which, with other improvements, added to the first cost of the property, amounted to \$30,000. They operated this mill until February, 1881, when it was destroyed by fire. They began immediately to rebuild, but on a much more elaborate plan, putting up their present building, which is a frame building 40x50 feet, and four stories in height, including the basement. At that time the roller system of milling was proving a success, and they decided to introduce that system. The mill is furnished with eleven sets of rollers, and was the second full roller mill started in the State. The capacity of this mill is 200 barrels of flour per day of twenty-four hours, and is used for both merchant and custom work.

Job Engle and his two sons, William W. and Francis A., constitute the firm. The father is a native of Barnsville, Belmont county, Ohio, where he was born December 1, 1806. He was reared in his native country and afterwards moved to Washington county. He is a brick mason by trade, but has generally followed farming. In 1851 he removed with his family to Cedar Rapids,

Iowa, and thence to Waterloo in the same State in 1853, where he lived until he came to Austin in 1871.

William W. was born in Ohio in 1833. The changes of location, which he has made are the same as those mentioned of his father. His first work at milling was in Waterloo, Iowa. He has been twice married. His first wife was Eliza Burroughs, born in Vermont, and was a daughter of Rev. D. W. Burroughs, now a resident of Waterloo. She died July 16th, 1881. His present wife was Lovisa Edington, born at Rockford, Illinois. He has two children by his first marriage, Alice and Willie.

Francis A. Engle was born in 1836. He is a practical miller of large experience. He began milling at Cedar Falls, Iowa. He was at one time general overseer of the flouring mills of that city. His wife was Adella Tuttle. They have three children—Mary, James and Bertie.

#### WARNER MILL.

M. Detlefsen is the proprietor of a roller flouring mill, known as the Warner Mill. It is located on Dobbin's creeks; was erected by Mr. Warner. This mill formerly contained four run of stone; was afterward supplied with seven set of rollers by Mr. Warner. The mill does excellent work; has a capacity of twenty-five barrels of flour per day, of 10 hours. The mill was purchased of Mr. Warner by Sorrents, of Minneapolis. The present proprietor is a practical miller, having been engaged in milling since 1855. He was born in Schleswig, Germany. He learned his trade in his native land, coming to America in 1871; has been engaged in milling at Winona, in this State; at Delnew,

in Wright county; at Minneapolis, in the old City Mill, also in the Galway Mill, for a period of six years; at St. Paul, where he did custom milling, and has an interest there still. He took charge of this mill the present year, 1884.

#### PHOTOGRAPHERS.

Dr. Brewer was the first photographer to locate at Austin. He was assisted by A. B. Davidson, who succeeded him in the business. In 1884, Orville Slocum and G. S. Hildahl were each engaged in the business.

#### MURDER OF CHAUNCY LEVERICH.

In August, 1856, Chauncy Leverich, one of the first settlers of Austin, came to an untimely death at the hands of a crowd of drunken roughs, who had assembled at his saloon. The affair happened in about the following manner: It took place at a saloon where D. B. Smith's office now stands. The parties committing the crime were intoxicated and making loud noises and acting very boisterous about Mr. Leverich's place, and he finally put them out of doors, and they then began pounding the side of the building, whereupon Leverich went out determined to drive them away, but in the engagement he was struck by a bar of some kind, which fractured his skull. He lived about a week and was buried upon the corner of the same lot upon which his building stood. The parties charged with the crime of killing him were Horace Silvers and William Oliver, who were tried for assault and battery, and fined respectively \$20 and \$10. Upon learning of Mr. Leverich's serious injury they both left the place and were never seen in Austin again. Thus one of Austin's

pioneers was suddenly cut down, just upon the verge of a useful career.

#### THE INDIAN PANIC OF 1862.

Mrs. D. B. Johnson responded by giving the following interesting description of the fight:

The month of August, 1862, will long be memorable in the annals of Austin as the epoch of the most barbarous Indian scare that ever occurred. This was soon after the massacre at New Ulm. The country being new, there was no railroads or telegraphs. Rumors came floating on the breeze, and the news came by ox teams, resulting in our great scare, several days after the whole band of Indians had fled the country. The band engaged in the New Ulm massacre, and wholly responsible for the Austin fright, were the Dakotas and Sioux, under command of Little Crow.

I shall always remember that night. It was the darkest night I ever saw out of doors, and raining most of the time. At an early hour the Lacy House was filled to overflowing, as were all other other places of refuge. Just before dark I discovered large numbers of men armed with spades, hoes, rakes, shovels, axes and old dilapidated guns that would not shoot, on their shoulders, walking to and fro, making a slight appearance of bravery, but in utter confusion. I was then for the first time informed that we were all to be taken captive by "Lo, the poor Indian." I then commenced making preparations for a long march, and burning at the stake of myself and nine children. I could plainly hear the faggots snapping and feel the flames. My children, after wrapping them in flannels, were laid in bed to gain

strength for the journey. Now, it was pitch dark. I pinned down the window curtains, and placed the lamp where the light could not be seen from the outside, then put on all the dresses I had, filling each pocket with goodies, small articles for the Indians, then waited the dreaded moment. Till quite late there were several families with me, and one quite young lady. The men claimed to be all engaged in mending guns, running bullets, putting handles in shovels, hoes, rakes, and spades, and drying powder at Hunt's blacksmith shop. We afterward learned they were playing billiards at the saloon. I could hear all night the soft tread of the Indians, and hear them breathe, and could even hear the screams of children who had been scalped. I felt quite sure that our house, having dark trimmings and no lights, would not be discovered by the Indians. The young lady would every few moments slightly raise the curtain and attempt to look out, as if watching for some dear friends. I noticed she was very impatient. At about midnight her patience entirely worn out, she exclaimed: "If them Indians are coming, I wish they would come along." Thus ended the scare with me.

#### FIRST EVENTS.

The first man to locate in the vicinity of Austin, was "Hunter" Clark, who built a log cabin near the grounds of Oakwood cemetery, in the fall of 1853.

The first frame house in Austin was erected by Chauncey Leverich, in the autumn of 1855.

In 1866, the first brick dwelling house in town was the Congregational parsonage, corner of Maple and St. Paul streets. The

second by J. B. Yates, corner of West and St. Paul streets. The bricks were made in Austin by Yates & Léwis, who started the first brick yard.

The first white child born in Austin, was Austin Bemis, son of George H. and Eleanor Merrick Bemis, born November 17, 1855. He is now in Utah, engaged in mining.

The second child born in the place was Carrie M. Wheat, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dr. J. N. Wheat. She was born December 6, 1856. She became the wife of E. G. Bascomb, of Rochester, Minnesota.

The first piano owned in the city, was purchased by Dr. J. N. Wheat.

The first church organ was played by Mrs. Johnson, at the Methodist church, in 1863.

The first brick business house in Austin, was erected in 1866, by Harlan Page, for a bank, with law offices above. This was destroyed by fire in 1869, and the present First National Bank building erected on its site.

The first goods were sold by A. B. Vaughan, in 1855.

George H. Bemis ran the first shoe shop.

The first death within the place, was that of Chauncey Leverich, in the early fall of 1856.

#### RAILROADS.

The subject of railroads agitated the people of Austin for many years. In 1867 their hopes were realized by the completion of the Iowa and Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway to this place, which has made Austin an important station on the road. Here is located a machine shop and round house. The latter building was erected in 1867, with ten stalls. Two or three years later this building was partially

destroyed by fire, but was immediately rebuilt to double its former size. The company have about six miles of side track here, with a capacity of 280 cars. Frank Cloy is yard master. There is a very good depot building, with two waiting rooms and office and baggage room, under one roof.

Captain James S. Anderson is foreman of the round house of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company at Austin, a position he has held since 1873. Captain Anderson is a life long railroad man, having been engaged on the Michigan Central in 1851, and has been constantly railroading since, except during his term of service in the army during the rebellion. He run an engine as early as 1855, on the LaCrosse division of the Milwaukee Road. He enlisted in August 1862, in the 24th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served till the close of the war. He participated in some of the severest engagements of the war; was taken prisoner at Chickamauga, September 20th, 1863; was confined in various rebel prisons, including the stockade at Andersonville, where he remained eleven months. After the war he resumed work on the LaCrosse division, coming here in 1871. His wife, Mary McWhorter, was born in Illinois. They have two children, Wert F., born February, 1866, is a young man of much promise. He received the appointment as cadet to the Military Academy at West Point, from the first district in 1884. Their second child is a daughter, Dellaphim. Both were born in Wisconsin.

#### THE RAILROAD ERA.

Prior to the advent of the railroad to Austin, the business of the place was not classi-

fied, but general stocks prevailed, but at this time a revolution took place which really marked a new era in the commercial history of Austin. The history of a majority of the business houses which operated previous to the coming of the railroad, has already been given. In this connection will be given the general development of the various branches of trade from 1867, when the railroad was completed—to the present time. Sketches of business men will also appear.

#### DRUG TRADE.

The drug business at the commencement of this era was represented by Woodard & Dorr, and J. J. & G. G. Clemmer.

The firm of Woodard & Dorr was soon changed to Dorr & Wold, who are still in business. The Clemmer Bros. were in business but a few years, when G. G. withdrew from the firm and went to Hampton, Iowa. J. J. has never been a resident of Austin, but lives at Cresco, Iowa. Soon after G. G. withdrew the firm became Clemmer & Pooler, who were still in trade in 1884.

Soon after the coming of the railroad, U. P. Austin sold an interest in his store to F. A. Richardson, and in 1869 he sold his remaining interest to Frank Mayhew, and went to California. After a few years Mayhew sold his interest to Richardson, and followed Austin to California. Richardson continued in the business until 1880, when his stock was destroyed by fire.

James C. Day started in the dry goods business early in this era; after about one year he sold to Stoley & Williams. Their business was managed by W. H. Merrick two years, when they closed out.

C. L. West, of the firm of Hall & West, is the son of David West, one of the early and well known settlers of the town of Lyle, in this county. David West is a native of Chautauqua county, New York, where he was born in 1823, and made his home there, until his removal to Minnesota. His wife, Harriet Woodworth, was born in the same county. Mr. West pre-empted a farm on section 32, in the town of Lyle, where he resided for a number of years, when he moved to Otranto, Mitchell county, Iowa, where he still resides, an honored and respected citizen. They brought with them to Minnesota two children, C. L. and Jannette, who is now the wife of James Gault, of Otranto. Another son, James E., was born in the town of Lyle, and died at the age of four years.

C. L. West was born in Chautauqua county, New York, near the noted and beautiful Lake Chautauqua, in 1846. He was for some time a student of Cedar Valley Seminary, at Osage. He entered the mercantile business as clerk; was clerk for H. W. McNabb, at Osage for 3 years, and for two years after coming to Austin, was engaged as clerk in the store of Austin & Richardson. He then engaged in the crockery and glassware trade, continuing in that trade for two years. The firm of Hall & West was formed in 1873. Mr. West married Charlotte C. Hall, a daughter of his partner, R. O. Hall. They have three children, Harry L., Veta A., and Leon H.

L. S. Willard, dry goods merchant, established business in Austin in 1876. He is a native of Illinois, in which State he spent his early life. He was for some time, when a young man, engaged as clerk in a mercantile

house at Peoria. He enlisted early in 1861, in the 11th Regiment Illinois Cavalry. On the organization of Co. G of that regiment, he was made its first lieutenant. In October 1862, he was appointed to a position on the staff of Gen. J. B. McPherson, and in the spring of 1863, was appointed Major, by President Lincoln. He continued on the staff of General McPherson until the death of that gallant soldier in July 1864. Soon after that, Major Willard, (on account of impaired health) resigned his position in the army, and returned home. Major Willard, while a member of General McPherson's staff, participated in some of the most important battles of the war. How well he fulfilled his duty as a soldier in that important and dangerous position of staff officer, is evident from the fact that after the siege of Vicksburg he was awarded a gold medal for gallant and meritorious services in that prolonged and desperate contest, and was complimented on the field of Corinth by General Rosecrans for gallantry on that occasion. On leaving the army, he returned to Peoria. The following year he engaged in mercantile trade at Litchfield, in his native State, until 1876. Mrs. Willard was formerly Ellen D. Davidson. She was born at Canton, Illinois. They have three children, William A., Mary T., Asa Lee.

The clothing business has always been well represented in Austin. Henry Jacobs, the pioneer dealer, was still in trade in 1884.

R. Dunkleman established business here late in 1866, and Joseph Levy early in 1867.

Dettleburgh Brothers, or better known as Cheap Charley, established their business here about 1878.

Charles C. Hunt, who is spoken of as being in the hardware business previous to the railroad era, continued in trade until 1870, when he sold to Ira Jones, who was in trade the greater part of the time until 1883, when he was succeeded by Cook & Davidson.

John F. Cook, of the firm of Cook & Davidson, hardware dealers, is the son of Rev. Stephen Cook. He was born in Malone, New York, May 13, 1823, and when twelve years of age he left his native place with his parents, and lived in other parts of the State of New York until they removed to the West. When he was a young man he was engaged in various occupations. For a time he was engaged as a clerk at Clintonville, New York, and later at Peru, New York. He came to Austin in 1856. He afterwards went to Iowa and during the construction of the Illinois Central railroad through that State was engaged in railroading and merchandising at Waterloo, and afterwards at Independence, returning to Austin in 1865, and engaged in the real estate business and other occupations. He owns several farms in the vicinity of Austin, and is a member of the hardware firm of Cook & Davidson. His wife was Addie E. Carpenter, a sister of the former wife of Judge J. Q. Farmer, of Spring Valley. They have three children—Charles F., Addie and John F.

J. H. Patterson, general hardware dealer, is located on the east side of Main street. He owns the brick store on the west side of the street, now occupied as a grocery store by McBride, into which he will remove when the present lease expires.

He purchased that building of J. B. Record in 1883. The business of Mr. Patter-

son was established by Crane & Patterson in 1880. The latter has conducted the business alone since February, 1882. Mr. Patterson was born in Huntington county, Pennsylvania. His father, George Patterson, served in the army of the rebellion as a captain, in the Ninth regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He died in 1864.

Mr. Patterson went to Black Hawk county, Iowa, in 1876, and learned the trade of a miller in La Porte in that county. He came to Austin in 1878, and for two years worked in the mill of Engle & Co. His wife was Cora R. Andrews, born in the State of Maine. Her father settled in Black Hawk county, Iowa, about 1855.

Mr. Patterson is the only member of his father's family residing in this State. His mother, Sarah J. Patterson, still lives in Pennsylvania.

Captain W. H. Sutton, general hardware dealer, engaged in business in November, 1883, in the firm name of Fish & Sutton. Mr. Sutton succeeded the firm in May, 1884. Has been a resident of Austin since July, 1868, and was engaged at his trade, that of a tanner, till he went into business. He is a native of Ohio. Captain Sutton was a gallant soldier, was among the first to offer his service to his country. He enlisted April 15th, 1861, for three months; at the expiration of his term of service, he raised a company, which was organized as company I., of Thirty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was made its Captain, remained such till the spring of 1864, when he was compelled by disability to leave the army. Captain Sutton served under the gallant General George H. Thomas, and participated in

many a hard fought battle, including Mill Springs, Perryville, Stone River, Mission Bridge. He has never fully recovered from the effects of his service in the army. He came to Minnesota, as many others have done, for the benefit of his health. His wife was Eliza Slashall. In August, 1883, he sold his stock of hardware to J. F. Andrews & Son.

Christian Johnson engaged in mercantile trade in 1870. He has been a resident of Austin since September, 1867. He was born in Norway, January 24th, 1837. He came to the United States with his father, H. P. Johnson. The family settled at Waupon, Wisconsin, and moved from there to Adams county, in the same State, but returned again to Waupon and then came to Austin. H. P. Johnson resided here until his death. Christian first went to Madison, where he lived three years, and returned then to Waupon, where he engaged in the mercantile business, and remained six years and then came to Austin, and in company with his brother Jacob Johnson, (who died in 1870) bought a stock of general merchandise, and was engaged in this business for eight years. He is now engaged in the clothing store of Mr. Levy. His wife was Jane Johnson, a native of Norway, and came to this country when she was seven years old. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have five children.

The furniture trade of Austin was represented in 1867, by George Mitchell, Hopkins & Fernald. Mitchell was a cabinet maker by trade. He continued in the trade until his death. Hopkins & Fernald continued in the business until 1875, when Hopkins sold and moved to Boston, Massa-

chusetts. Fernald was joined in business by A. W. Kimball. They continued in business until their stock was destroyed by fire. Fernald started in business soon after, and is still in the business. S. C. Olson, who at first worked in Fernald's store, commenced business for himself. He was in trade in 1884.

Joseph Schwan is the oldest established boot and shoe dealer now in business in Austin. He began business October 23, 1867. His first location was on the present site of John Revord's blacksmith shop. He began on a small scale, in a small frame building, only ten feet in width; kept a small stock of ready-made goods; also did custom work; remained in this location about two years. He then occupied a store in the "bank block" for eight years, when he removed to his present commodious quarters, in one of the elegant brick buildings erected by Mr. Schleuder. Mr. Schwan, by close attention to business, has built up a fine trade. His assortment of ready-made goods is complete; also continues to manufacture custom work. He is a native of Baden, Germany, born November 13, 1836; learned his trade in his native land; came to America in 1853. He remained in the east till May of the following year, when he went to Canton, Ohio, from there to Prairie du Chien, then to McGregor, Iowa. At that place he became acquainted with A. H. Wheeler, boot and shoe dealer, who engaged him as foreman in his store. Soon after that gentleman moved to Milwaukee; Mr. Schwan accompanied him; remained as foreman one year and a half. He then decided to engage in business for himself;

came to Austin; Wm. Wheeler being partner till 1869; since that time has been alone. He was married to Miss Lizzie Howard, native of Germany, but came to this country when a child with her parents, and was reared in Sandusky, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Schwan have three children—W. J., Carrie C. and J. E.

J. C. Ackley purchased the boot and shoe stock which George B. Hayes carried in connection with his general store and operated until 1873, and then sold to J. B. Revord. In two or three years he sold to John Lambert; continued a few years and moved to southern Iowa.

In December, 1867, James Truesdell, of Syracuse, New York, started an exclusive boot and shoe store in the building now used as a meat market, which was situated where John Walsh's store now stands. In 1869 he moved to Ira Jones' building, where he remained two years, and from there moved to the east side of Main street into a building which he bought, and where Jacobs' store is now kept. In 1880 Mr. Truesdell sold his stock to Frank Ticknor.

Samuel Sweningsen and Charles I. Johnson embarked in the boot and shoe business in 1880, and were among the dealers in 1884.

Charles I. Johnson, of the firm of Sweningsen & Johnson, boot and shoe dealers, is a native of Christiania, Norway, where he was born in 1857. His father still lives in Norway; his mother is dead. Mr. Johnson came to this country in 1869, being then but a boy twelve years of age. He first went to Chicago, where he went to school for a time, and was afterwards employed for a number of years in the dry goods

store of Field, Leiter & Co., first as cash boy for two years, and afterwards as time keeper and salesman. He came to Adams, Mower county, in 1874, and then to Taopi, where he was engaged as clerk for a number of years. He came here from Cresco, where he had been a short time.

Among the grocery dealers at the commencement of this era was L. G. Basford, who continued in the business until the falling of the Basford block in 1883.

James C. Day, after selling his stock of dry goods, opened an extensive grocery store, from which he drove the first delivery wagon in town. He was succeeded by S. W. Day.

Amos H. Hill, general grocer and dealer in boots and shoes, has been a resident of Austin since June, 1857, at which time he and his brother, O. J. Hill, located on section 33, in the town of Red Rock, the last government land remaining in that township. Amos H. settled on one-half of this land and his brother on the other half. These lands they improved, and O. J. Hill still occupies his farm.

Amos H. came to Austin in February, 1876, formed a partnership with John Lambert in his present line of trade. He is now alone in business.

Mr. Hill was born in New Hampshire in 1828. When sixteen years of age he went to Boston and worked for a number of years. In the fall of 1854, accompanied by his brother, he came to Wisconsin, and to Mower county, Minnesota, in 1857, as before stated.

A younger brother, Josiah, came to Austin about the same time, but made no settle-

ment, and returned to Massachusetts, entered the army and died in the service.

His sister came to Wisconsin at the time he came. She married Dr. C. B. Staples, who located at Ripon, Wisconsin; afterwards came to Austin, and is now in Dakota.

Mr. Hill has been twice married. His first wife, Celeste Clemmens, died April 8, 1869. His present wife was Sarah L. Makepeace, of Maine. Mr. Hill lost his only child, Alice, who died in 1870. She was born in Wisconsin in 1870.

Dalager Bros., general grocers, engaged in business, in 1880. Edward and Andrew Dalager, are sons of Ole Dalager, who with his family settled in the town of Lansing, in 1871. The family emigrated from Norway, coming directly to Mower county. Andrew was born in Norway, in 1854, came to Austin in 1878, engaged in the sale of farm machinery. Edward was born in Norway, in 1857; has been in Austin since 1872, engaged in the same line of business, as at present. Dalager Bros. are wide-awake business men, and are doing a fine business. Andrew was married July 1st, 1880, to Cleon Golborg, a native of Iowa. They have one child, Blanche. Edward married in 1878 to Petrina Lee, of Austin. They have two children living, viz.: Norman O., Clarence J.

Kaiser & Guiney, are general dealers in harnesses, saddles, collars, etc. The first harness made in Austin, was by LeRoy Hathaway, in 1860. Mr. Hathaway was at that time at work for George B. Hayes, who started the first harness shop. In the spring of 1865, Hathaway engaged in business for himself, and in October of that year, Mr. Kaiser became his partner in business. This

partnership continued about one year. Mr. Kaiser was then alone in business until July 25th, 1868, when Mr. Guiney became associated with him, which partnership still continues. Their location is in block 20, lot 1, on the east side of main street. They have a fine brick building twenty-two by sixty feet. These gentlemen keep everything pertaining to a first-class harness shop, and do an extensive business.

J. C. Kaiser, of the firm, is a native of Hesse Cassel, Germany, where he was born in 1832. He served an apprenticeship at his trade for three years at Cassel, and came to the United States in 1852. He worked at his trade in Troy and West Sod Lake, N. Y., for two years, and then went to Davenport, Iowa, where he worked for three years. He then came to Freeborn county, Minnesota, and took a claim of Government land, which he partly improved, and on which he resided until 1862, when he enlisted in Company E. 10th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. The regiment to which he belonged was attached to the 16th Army Corps. He was in active service during the entire term of his enlistment, and participated in many important battles. He has resided in Austin since the close of the war. His wife was M. M. Baker, born in Pennsylvania. They have two children, Emma G., and Melvin A. The latter is at work in the shop with his father.

Jeremiah Guiney was born in County Cork, Ireland, in 1842. His parents died when he was a child. When he was eleven years old, he with his brothers emigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, and in the fall of

1853, he went to Illinois, and came to the town of Red Rock, Mower county, in May 1856. He learned his trade of Mr. Hathaway, in Austin. His wife, Mary Welch, is a native of Cork, Ireland.

The first to engage in the grain business at Austin, in the railroad era was B. J. and E. P. Van Valkenburgh, who located a warehouse soon after the railroad came in.

Among the other dealers have been Ames & Co., William W. Cargill, John Crandall and Yates & Lewis. The railroad company built a low, flat warehouse shortly after the road was built in and about the same time the firm of B. J. and E. P. Van Valkenburgh, dissolved.

Bassett & Huntting built an elevator about 1875, which had a capacity of 60,000 bushels, and B. J. Van Valkenburgh managed it, having an interest in the same. In 1868, Yates & Lewis built a warehouse, and handled grain a few years.

In 1884 the grain business was in the hands of Bassett & Huntting and Charles Whitton.

The lumber business of Austin is represented by F. I. Crane and S. B. Woodsum. The latter is located at the depot.

The business was first represented in Austin by Mr. Washburn, in 1866, and he remained in the business two years. The same year a yard was started by P. G. Lamoreaux, on Main street, near Oleson's furniture store. William Leach opened a yard in the fall of the same year on Mill street, east of the yard established by Washburn. Mr. Leach continued in business about one year.

The lumber trade at Austin, in 1867, after the completion of the railroad, was an im-

mense business. From this point all the territory between Albert Lea and Mason City had to obtain lumber from Austin. The lumber manufacturers of Minneapolis had yards of their own for several years, and done an extensive business. In 1868 there were six yards in the city. Among the dealers who continued in the trade after the boom had ceased was William Richards, whose yard was at the depot. He sold to E. H. Gerard, and he to S. B. Woodsum, one of the present lumber dealers.

Bray & French were also early dealers in lumber. Frank I. Crane, lumber dealer, succeeded Bray & French in 1876. Mr. Crane is the youngest son of William A. and Laura (Chatfield) Crane. He was born in the town of Sharon, Medina county, Ohio, September, 1848. He came to Mower county with his parents when 15 years of age. His wife was Sylvia Pettibone, a native of Ohio. They had one daughter named Leah.

William M. Leach came to Austin in 1866, engaged in lumber trade, which he still continues, having charge of the lumber yards of Frank I. Crane. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1822. He came to Quincy, Illinois, in 1839, with his father, Mathias Leach. In 1849 his father went across the plains to California, where he died. Mr. Leach came to Stillwater, in this State, in 1858, remaining there till 1866, when he came to Austin, where he still resides. His wife was Caroline E. Walton, born in Kentucky. They have one daughter, Annie.

Plow manufactory of Johnson & Smith—Seymour Johnson and H. S. Smith. This

is one of the leading institutions of Austin. This firm manufactures various kinds of plows, including stubble plows, prairie breakers and grub breakers. An important branch of their business is the manufacture of a superior harrow called "the Everlasting Steel Harrow," on which H. S. Smith secured a patent in 1879. Their place of business is on the corner of Mill and St. Paul streets. Their factory is a brick structure, forty-seven feet in width, by one hundred and one feet in length, and thirty feet in height; it was erected in 1878. They turn out about three hundred plows and the same number of harrows annually. This business was first established by Mr. Johnson and Richard O. Hunt in 1867. Mr. Johnson has been constantly in the business since it was first started. The present firm was formed in 1872.

S. Johnson is a native of Norway, where he was born December 1, 1841. His father died when he was a child. He came to this country with his mother in 1855. The family settled at Waupun, Wisconsin, where Mr. Johnson served an apprenticeship to his present business. He enlisted in 1862 in Company A, Thirty-second regiment Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. He served with his regiment under General Sherman during the greater part of his time of service, participating in the memorable siege of Atlanta, and in Sherman's march to the sea. At the close of the war he returned to Waupun, coming to Austin in 1867. He had a brother Johan, located at Rochester, Olmstead county, where he died. One sister, Mrs. M. K. Dahal, lives at Waupun, Wisconsin, with whom his mother lives. Mr. Johnson married Lena

Johnson, who came to the United States from Norway in 1854, and to Minnesota in 1867. They have two children, Alfred E. H., and Stella. They have lost two children, a son and a daughter.

Hiram S. Smith is a native of Franklin county, New York, where he was born in 1834, and there remained until he came to Austin. He has had an extensive experience in his present business, having been engaged in the blacksmithing and plow business since he was twenty years of age. His father, L. H. Smith, came to Austin in 1866 and resided here until his death. Mr. Smith married Eva A. Stewart, who was born in Vermont. They have two children, Ida and Albert.

Austin foundry was established in 1867 by William W. Brownson, who was born in St. Lawrence county, N. Y., September 3, 1829. He went to Brandon, Vt., when he was 16 years old, where he learned his trade of founder and machinist. He was married at Royalton, Vt., September 9, 1853, to Miss Frances Backus. They afterward lived some five years at Canton, New York. In 1862 they removed to Mower county, Minn., near Austin, where they lived on a farm for some years. Although farm life was accepted as the most healthful, Mr. Brownson's tastes led him to embark in an enterprise of great utility to the village of Austin. He accordingly built a foundry, near the depot late in the fall of 1867, and his residence adjoining. He operated this business successfully until the time of his death, March 2, 1873. He had been thoroughly identified with the municipal affairs of Austin, and for several terms was a member of the council, and at his death

was city treasurer and alderman. His disease was cerebro-spinal-meningitis. He left a wife and one son.

In the agricultural implement business, there has been numerous dealers. William Allan, about the first regular dealer, after railroad times, operated about five years and then closed out and removed to Wells, Minn., and in 1883, was editing a newspaper at Winnebago City, Minn.

Next came Alanson Wright, who done quite an extensive business in this line.

Next came E. P. VanValkenburgh, who was succeeded by Oscar Ayers, who was still in business in 1884.

D. B. Smith, dealer in general farm machinery, has been engaged in his present business in Austin since the fall of 1871. Mr. Smith was born and reared in Oakland county, Michigan, near Detroit. He was reared to the occupation of farming, and was engaged in teaching for a period of six years. His father, Calvin Smith, was a native of Vermont, and settled at Detroit in 1826. He died in the spring of 1884. Mr. Smith does an extensive business. Long experience has made him familiar with all branches of his business, and also with the requirements of the farmer in the line of machinery. Mr. Smith has been twice married. His first wife was Jennie E. Simmons. She was born near Detroit, Michigan, in 1839. She died in 1874, leaving three sons, viz: Clayton, Frank, Judd. His present wife was Amanda Fleck, sister of A. M. Fleck.

H. O. Jahren and H. S. Hammond are engaged in the sale of farm machinery in the firm name of Jahren & Hammond. The business was established by Goodwin &

Jahren, in 1874. The present firm are now doing business at the corner of Chatham and Mill street.

A. O. Jahren, a brother of H. O., succeeded to the business followed by H. O. The present firm was established in January, 1884.

H. O. Jahren was born in Norway in 1854. He came to America in 1873 with his brother, A. O. Jahren, who had made the trip to this country, and after five years' stay had returned to his motherland. A. O. is now engaged with the Birdsall Manufacturing Company in St. Louis, Missouri.

Mr. Jahren married Mary Severson, whose father came to Wisconsin from Norway in 1862, and now lives in Polk county, Minnesota. His name is Thomas Severson. Mr. Jahren has three children—Ovidia, Nettie and Carl William.

Fred Radermacher, proprietor of the grocery and restaurant established his business in Austin in 1869. He was born in Rhine Province, Germany, in 1834. From the age of 8 to 16 years he was employed as a clerk in a store in his native province. He came to the United States in 1856, and then went to Detroit, Michigan, where he was employed in a bakery, and also worked at gardening. From Detroit he went to the town of Rockland, in Northern Michigan, where he was engaged in copper mining for eleven years. He was very successful in this business. He came to Austin in 1869 and engaged in the grocery trade, in which he continued until 1872. In the fall of 1876 he engaged in the bakery and restaurant business. He has a good trade and has made a success of his present business.

Mr. Radermacher married Augusta F. Tomm, who was born in Saxony and came to the United States in 1860. They have had seven children and lost their three oldest ones; also their sixth. Those living are Annie, Katie and one son, Francis.

The commercial interests of Austin in August, 1884, were represented as follows:

DRY GOODS.

Hall & West, J. Soloner & Co., L. S. Willard and F. King.

GROCERIES.

C. W. Taylor & Co., Dalager Brothers, F. P. McBride, A. H. Hill & Co.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

J. Schwan, Sweningsen & Johnson and F. A. Ticknor.

CLOTHING.

R. Dunkleman, Dettelbach Bros., ("Cheap Charley") J. Levy and F. E. Jacobs.

HARDWARE.

Cook & Davidson, J. H. Patterson, J. F. Andrews & Son.

DRUGS.

Dorr & Wold and Clemmer & Pooler.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

D. B. Smith, Oscar Ayers, Keenan Bros., Jahren & Hammond.

RESTAURANTS.

G. F. Rodemacher, R. P. Boyles.

HARNESS SHOPS.

Kaiser & Guiney and Frank Rayman.

NEWS DEPOT.

James Cronan.

JEWELERS.

G. Schleuder and Hayes Bros.

HOTELS.

Fleck House, kept by A. M. Fleck; Mansfield House, kept by J. H. Mansfield; Windsor House, kept by John E. Robinson; Davidson House, kept by S. F. Gibbons; Railroad House, kept by Bannard & Horrabin; American House, kept by Andrew Noonan; Burlington House, kept by J. Fischer; German House, kept by \_\_\_\_\_

LUMBER YARDS.

F. I. Crane and S. B. Woodsum.

GRAIN BUYERS.

Bassett & Huntting (per H. A. Fairbanks) and C. H. Whitton.

The following named not mentioned in a personal sketch, have at some time engaged in business at Austin.

GROCERIES.

Noble & McWharter, Paddock Bros., S. W. Day, Sprague & Co., Paden & Simmons.

DRUGS.

Noble & French.

HARDWARE.

Austin & Smith, C. L. Chase.

DRY GOODS.

Fleetwood & Merrill, J. C. Smith & Co., Walker & Lidgerwood, Knud Knudson.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

W. J. Brown, E. J. Gratton, Nelson Bros., H. H. Kent, G. H. Azure.

BOOTS & SHOES.

Jehial Woodward.

Orville Slocum, Photographic artist, is the oldest son of Harry and Marie (Perkins) Slocum. He was born in Herkimer county, New York, June 26, 1841. Was sixteen years of age when he came to Mower county with his parents. He enlisted in 1862, in Company "M" First Minnesota Mounted Rangers. After serving eight months he was discharged on account of disability. He returned home and engaged in farming until 1870, when he engaged with H. S. Coon to learn his present business, which he has since followed with the exception of three years that he was traveling in Iowa. He was married in 1881, to Mary L. Hayden.

George S. Hildahl, photographer, has conducted his present business since 1880. The business to which he succeeded was established by R. I. Smith. Mr. Hildahl was born in Norway, in 1855. He came to the United States in 1873, and then directly to Iowa, and learned photography at Decorah, with I. Adams. He came to Austin in 1878, was with Mr. Smith one year, and then went to St. Paul, where he was engaged with Pepper & Son, photographers, and remained three years, and returned to Austin, where he married Miss Peters, a native of Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin. They have one daughter, May G.

Roswell Slocum settled in the town of Windom in the fall of 1857. His two brothers, Cook and Harry Slocum, settled in that town at the same time. They were from Paupa, Illinois. Mr. Slocum was born in Montgomery county, New York, in 1810. He married Mary A. Cross, born in the town of Putney, Rutland county, Vermont, in

1813, and removed to the State of New York with her parents when but 6 years old. They were married in 1835, in Herkimer county, New York. They moved to De Kalb county, Illinois, in 1853, and came to Minnesota in 1857, and settled in the town of Windom. Mr. Slocum sold his farm in 1874, and settled in the city of Austin. They are the parents of two children, Wesley and Lucilia, both born in the State of New York.

Harry Slocum, of Austin, is an early settler of Windom, where he located October, 1857, on land which he had entered in June of that year. He was born in Herkimer county, New York, June 18, 1818. From his native county he removed to Alleghany county in the same state, and then to De Kalb county, Illinois; coming to Minnesota from the last state mentioned. Two brothers, Cook and Roswell Slocum, came at the same time. The former died in Austin; the latter still resides here. Mr. Slocum married Maria Perkins, daughter of Ezekial Perkins, native of Herkimer county. They have five children. Orville, who is engaged in photography in Austin; Newell, Malvin B., at Rose Creek; Elward W., on homestead farm in Windom, and Alma, wife of George Sutton, of Rose Creek. Mr. Slocum has resided in Austin since 1869, is engaged in the coal, wood and lime trade. His father, Jesse Slocum, native of Stonington, Connecticut, died when Harry was 4 years of age.

James T. Sargent, of the city of Austin, is one of the early settlers of the town of Red Rock, where he settled in May, 1857, taking a claim of 175 acres. Settlers were not numerous when he made his location, and few

improvements met the eye. Mr. Sargent found a small log house on his claim, a German having mistaken it for his own claim and put a house thereon for his own comfort. Mr. Sargent made a few improvements in 1857, breaking about twelve acres. The principal grain market of the early settlers was Winona, a distance of eighty-five miles. To make a trip to that place and return required five and six days.

Mr. Sargent was born in Washington county, Vermont, in 1817, where he lived till 1837, when he went to Nashua, New Hampshire, and thence to the town of Western, Oneida county, New York, where he was married to Belinda S. Cogswell, who was born in that town; moved from Oneida county to Malone, Franklin county; thence to Hamilton City, Canada.

Mr. Sargent was reared on a farm and learned the trade of a mason at Nashua. While in New York State he was doing mason work on the Black River canal and on the enlargement of the Erie canal; afterward engaged on the Cheshire and Bellows Falls railroad, as foreman; later on the Ogdensburg railroad as inspector of mason work. At Hamilton, Canada, he was superintendent of mechanical work on the Great Western railroad.

Mr. and Mrs. Sargent have two children—Rebecca, wife of J. B. Yates, born in Oneida county, New York, in 1844, and William H, born at Malone, New York, in 1850, and married Elizabeth Decker, daughter of Jacob Decker of Austin township.

Mr. Sargent's parents were John P. and Anna Todd Sargent, natives of New Hampshire. Settled in Vermont, where the father

died. The mother came to this county, where she lived till her death. Mrs. Sargent's parents were John and Rebecca Pike Cogswell, natives of the State of New York, where they lived till death.

H. S. Hammond was born in Boone county, Illinois in 1848. He came to Mower county in February 1874, and settled in the town of Lansing, on section 16, purchasing a farm of Thomas Hinchy, which he sold, and now owns a farm in section 25, in that township. His wife was Jennie Hunt, and she was born in Connecticut. Her father, Robert Hunt, moved to Illinois, and then to Rock county, Wisconsin, and finally to Winnebago county, Illinois, where he now lives. Mr. and Mrs. Hammond have four children, Nina A., Frederick S., Charles S., and Arthur, all born in Boone county, Illinois, except the youngest.

Jacob Fischer is the owner and proprietor of the "Burlington House," near the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul depot, at Austin. He rebuilt the house and opened it to the public in 1877. He was born in Baden, Germany, in 1848, and came to the United States in 1866. His parents died in Germany, when he was about eight years of age. After coming to this country he lived in Cincinnati for one year, and then went to Dubuque, Iowa, where he worked at his trade, that of a carpenter. He afterwards went to Cedar Rapids, and assisted in building the Linseed Oil Mills in that city. He was also in the employ of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad Company for a number of years. He then came to Austin to work for that company in 1873, and had charge of their repair shop at this point for

four years. Mr. Fischer is doing a good business, and is prospering financially.

#### BANKING.

The first attempt at banking in Austin was away back in the perilous days of "wild cat" money. Willard Bros., opened a small bank in A. B. Vaughan's building, soon after the town was commenced. They only did business about a year. The next banking business was done by what was termed the "Bank of Southern Minnesota." A. M. Pett acted as cashier and A. L. Pritchard as president. It was a bank of issue. It continued about two years. This was an exception to the majority of banks in this State, at that date, as it fulfilled its agreements and redeemed all of its money.

The First National Bank of Austin, is located on the corner of Main and Bridge streets. O. W. Shaw is president and H. W. Page, cashier. Mr. Page opened a bank in a building located upon the present bank site, in 1866. This was a brick structure which Mr. Page had erected in the summer of 1866, and was the first brick business house erected in Austin. The bank continued as a private institution, under the direction of Mr. Page, until in February, 1869, when it was organized as a National bank, with the present officers in charge. In March 1869, the bank building was destroyed by fire, and the present structure, 48x20 feet in size, was erected by Shaw & Page.

Messrs. Page & Shaw are natives of Carroll county, New Hampshire. The former graduated at Dartmouth College, in 1861, and was afterward engaged in teaching for a number of years, and later was for

one year engaged in the treasury department at Washington. For a time he was employed in the paymaster's department at Washington, and from there he went to Springfield, Illinois, where he remained until December, 1865, and the following year he came to Austin from McGregor, Iowa.

Mr. Shaw was born in 1834, and while quite young engaged at clerking. For three years he was at Great Falls, N. H., then for two years was in a Boston wholesale dry goods house. He was afterward for three years in trade in New Hampshire with Ex-Gov. Samuel Merrill, of Iowa. Then with Gov. Merrill, he came to Iowa, and for several years was engaged in the mercantile business at McGregor, under the firm name of Merrill, Dearborn & Shaw. In 1867 he went to Chicago and engaged in the dry goods and commission business, as a member of the firm of Rollins & Shaw. In December, 1863, as stated, he came to Austin.

The following table shows the deposits of this bank, which is a fair index to the growth of Austin and its material prosperity:

January 1, 1867.....	\$ 1,449 72
January 1, 1868.....	19,201 27
January 1, 1869.....	26,788 65
January 1, 1870.....	36,582 10
January 1, 1871.....	65,433 49
January 1, 1872.....	67,326 94
January 1, 1873.....	116,926 52
January 1, 1874.....	120,246 47
January 1, 1875.....	131,594 80
January 1, 1876.....	133,437 75

Its business has increased in the above proportion, down to the present time, 1884.

The Mower County Bank was established by Smith, Wilkins, and Easton, in 1869. It was conducted in the above firm name until September 1, 1882, when Mr. Easton with-

drew from the firm, and the business of the bank has since been conducted by Wilkins & Smith. The latter, who became a partner in the business at the time of the change in 1882, is a son of Sylvester Smith, (deceased) one of the original founders of the bank mentioned above. This bank does general banking and collection business. The bank was started in 1869, in a brick building adjoining the old court house. The present bank building is a brick structure, ninety-five feet long by eighteen and a half feet wide. It was erected in 1875-6.

Sylvester Smith, of the banking firm of Smith, Wilkins & Easton, was born at Batavia, Genesee county, New York, in 1822. He removed to Canada with his parents when but ten years of age. He learned the trade of a mason, which he followed for a number of years, and came to Mower county in 1855, and worked at his trade for a while. He was elected county treasurer, and held that office for eight years. He engaged in banking in 1869. He died December 9, 1877. He had one son, Fay R., who succeeded his father in the banking business. His widow, Mrs. E. L. (Roseburgh) Smith, still resides in Austin.

A sketch of Mr. W. T. Wilkins, will be found in the representative chapter.

J. C. Easton, of the original firm, is a well known capitalist of Southern Minnesota, and at the present time resides at LaCrosse.

#### THE BOARD OF TRADE.

R. N. Paden, the President of the Board of Trade, said: We are not a stock board, gold board, underwriter's board, or non-board, nor Board of Health, nor an Ill board, or you board me, nor table board,

nor a side board, cup board, you be bored, I am bored, school board, town board, county board, State board, National board, equalization board, nor day board, week board, or board bill, nor a whisky board, nor a temperance board, reading room board, floral club board, fence board, women's board, bulletin board, ironing board, pine board, oak board, home board, foreign board, board of ship, board of cars, nor all aboard. But the Board of Trade was organized first in December, 1874. Re-organized in September, 1875. The purpose of the association is to advance the commercial mercantile and manufacturing interests of the city of Austin, to inculcate just and equitable principles of trade, establish and maintain uniformity in the commercial usages of the city, acquire, preserve and disseminate valuable business information, as far as possible to adjust the controversies and misunderstandings which may arise between individuals engaged in trade, and to promote the general prosperity of the city of Austin, and State of Minnesota.

#### THE AUSTIN CANNING FACTORY.

The idea of establishing a canning factory at Austin was conceived by C. H. Davidson, the proprietor of the Austin *Transcript*. His attention was called to the matter by a gentleman who had a factory of this nature at Gilman, Iowa. Mr. Davidson agitated the matter by talking up the project with some of the leading business men of Austin, and G. Schleuder, Rev. A. Morse, John Walsh and others were awakened to the fact that it would be an important enterprise among Austin's industrial interests. This was in the fall of 1882. In march of 1883,

Mr. Walsh went to Gilman, Iowa, to learn more of the business, and was much impressed with what he saw, being thoroughly convinced that it would be a good thing both for its projectors and the city. In June following Mr. Walsh and Mr. Davidson went to Elgin, Ill., for the purpose of looking into the details of the proposed venture. At this time the building had been erected and machinery bought. The buildings were located in Galloway's addition, on Bridge street. The main building is a frame, 30x50 feet in size; the cooking building is 20x30 feet; engine room 20x20 feet, and preparing shed 20x50 feet. The company began canning on the 4th of September, 1883, arrangements having been made with the farmers in the vicinity for the raising of sweet corn. The factory had been in operation but three days when the boiler of the engine exploded, instantly killing the engineer, Fred G. Knox.

This sad occurrence ended the work of the factory for 1883. The company have secured a new steel shell tubular boiler, which will carry 175 pounds of steam, much more than is required, and have made arrangements with farmers for raising 120 acres of sweet corn. They resumed work about the 20th of August, 1884, and it is the intention to fill 100,000 cans before the close of the year. The company make their own cans, having all the machinery necessary for that purpose. With the present arrangement they can make 2,000 cans per day.

The canning company was organized on the 28th of March, 1883. The first board of directors was composed of the following named gentlemen: John Walsh, C. H. Dav-

idson, H. W. Page, G. Schleuder, W. H. Sutton, D. J. Ames and W. T. Wilkins. John Walsh was elected president and C. H. Davidson, secretary.

The officers and directors of the company in 1884, were as follows: John Walsh, president; Dr. H. A. Avery, secretary; C. H. Davidson, H. W. Page, F. I. Crane, A. O. Hollister and R. Dunkerman.

John Walsh, president of the company, came to Austin in the spring of 1868, and engaged in the grocery business, which he pursued up to 1881. He was born in Kilkenny, Ireland; came to the United States in 1866, and in 1868, as stated, came here from Lansing, Iowa. He is married and has two children.

#### EXPRESS COMPANIES.

The first express business done at Austin was that operated by Nichols & Cotter, who ran the stage line from Rochester, also from Waverly, Iowa, northwest into Minnesota. The United States Express Company established a regular office at this point and Harlan W. Page was appointed the first agent. A little later the American Express Company established an office also, and made Mr. Page joint agent. This was the first joint office of these two companies in Minnesota.

Mr. Page was succeeded by Phelps and Hathaway, who held the offices till they divided, each having a separate office. C. J. Paddock was the first agent for the United States Company after they divided, and James Hutchins for the American company. About 1870 W. T. Wilkins became agent for the United States company, and he in 1872 was succeeded by the present agent, L. M. Ober. L. R. Hathaway was finally succeeded in

1873 by L. E. Day, who continued till 1884, when J. E. Crews took the office.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The first school in Austin was taught by Miss Maria Vaughan, in the summer of 1855, in a log house situated on Water street.

The first school house was erected in 1865. Prior to that time the public school had been held in the building known as "Headquarters." The first school house just mentioned was built of brick, and cost \$2,750. The building was one story high, and in 1884 was used for the Methodist Church. C. J. Shortt had the contract of constructing this pioneer school house, and W. T. Mandeville taught the first school there, commencing in February 1866. Austin has always been progressive in educational matters, which bespeaks of her intelligence. In 1868 the school house was found to be too small to accommodate the rapidly increasing school, but during that year the school was graded into departments, and in 1869 the present magnificent school house was commenced, and completed in 1870. It is located on block 9, on an elevated site. It was built by D. J. Tubbs, one of Austin's pioneers, and cost \$35,000. It is a three-story building, with a fine basement. The brick used in its construction were manufactured at Austin, and the stone were shipped from Faribault. It is heated by furnaces placed within the spacious basement, and it is well furnished throughout. In 1884, there were ten teachers employed in this school, which was the best in Southern Minnesota.

#### RELIGIOUS—METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The first members of this denomination

who located in the vicinity of Austin, were Samuel Clayton and wife, who settled in what is now Lansing township in 1854. Early in 1855 the Rev. Mr. Holbrook, from more than a hundred miles down the Cedar Valley, held services at Mr. Clayton's house, preaching the first sermon of this denomination in Mower county.\* He preached occasionally at Mr. Clayton's and to him belongs the honor of organizing the first Methodist class in this region. He was a somewhat eccentric man, the possessor of a crooked nose and a distorted mouth; and was, withal, a very good man. On making his first appearance, he was known, facetiously to remark, that if such a crooked stick as he could be of any service, he would be a very willing servant. The first class was organized at the house of Mr. Clayton and consisted of R. Dobbin, leader, Elsie Dobbin, Samuel Clayton and wife and N. G. Perry and wife. The first quarterly meeting was held at the house of Mr. Clayton, in June 1855. Rev. Mr. Coleman was presiding Elder, and was present. The first quarterly conference was held at the house of Silas Dutcher, in the village of Austin, October 18, 1856. This was then known as the Cedar River mission, which had been organized by Rev. Sylvester Phelps, of the Minnesota conference, a short time previous. During this year Moses Mapes was licensed to preach, and in the fall of 1857 became preacher in charge under Rev. D. Cobb, presiding Elder. In December, 1857, the first movement was made toward securing church property in Austin, and a committee was ap-

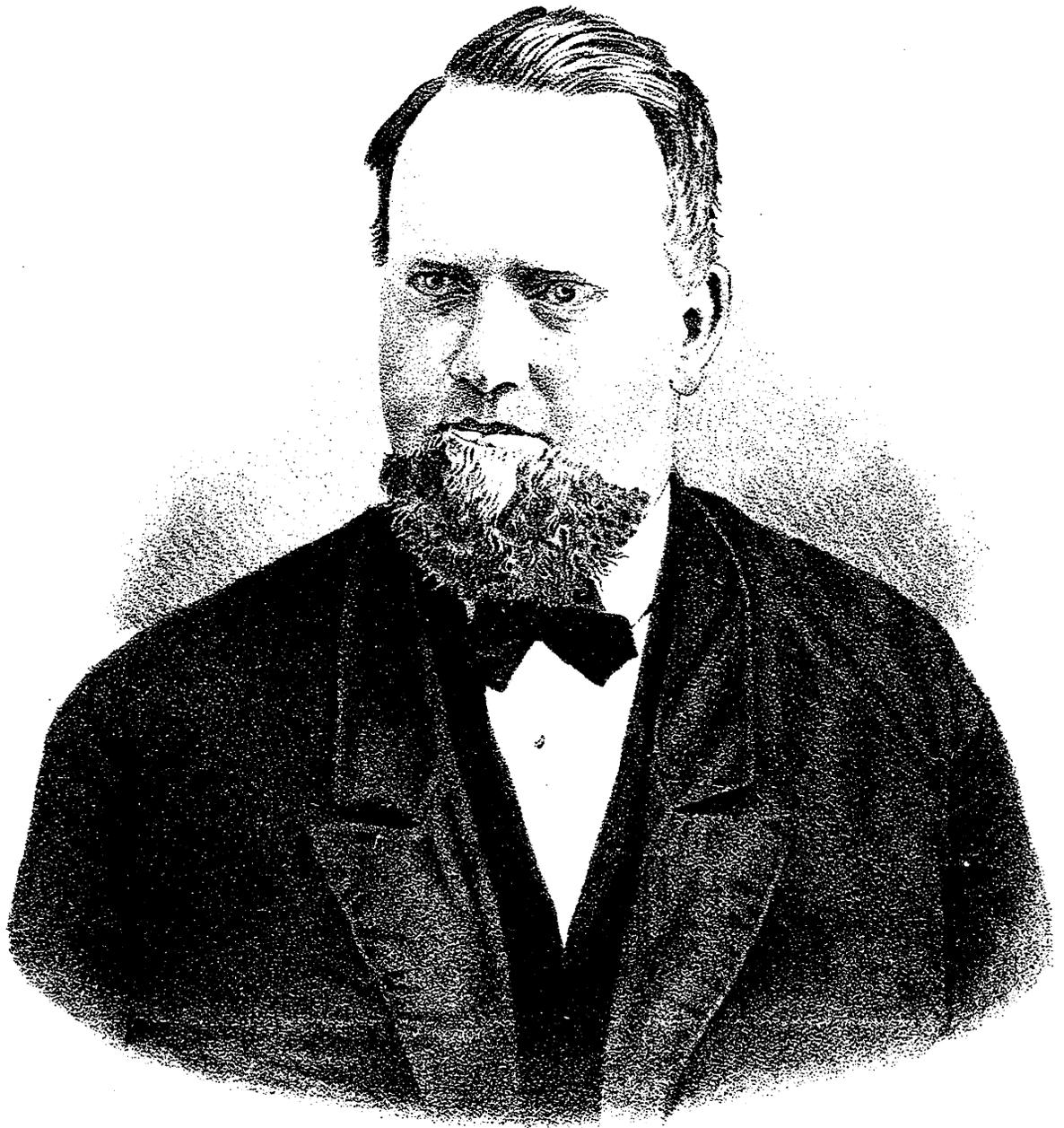
\*NOTE—The greater part of the history of this church was taken from a historical sermon preached by Rev. H. J. Crist, September 17, 1876.

pointed at that time, to confer with the town authorities, with reference to purchasing lots for a church and parsonage, but it was not until May, 1861, that lots were fully secured. In the spring of 1858, Rev. J. C. Dyer, known as "Father Dyer," became preacher in charge. During the year he held the first revival services in this region, and is well remembered as a laborious, self-sacrificing missionary evangelist. In the spring of 1859 came Moses Mapes as preacher in charge, T. M. Gossard being presiding Elder. In the fall of 1860 came Rev. F. A. Conwell, with whom was associated Rev. Geo. E. Strobbridge, as assistant preacher. The latter remained but a part of the year, and then went to the school at Evanston, and in 1876 was pastor of a church in New York City. In the fall of 1861, D. Tice became preacher in charge, with J. Lambertson as junior preacher. In the fall of 1862, this circuit embraced fourteen appointments. It was then divided, and Austin became a part of Austin circuit. D. Tice was re-appointed preacher in charge. In the fall of 1863 came S. T. Sterret, with John Quigley, as presiding Elder.

In 1864 William C. Shaw became pastor, with J. S. Peregrine as presiding elder. In 1865 Austin was attached to the Lansing circuit, and W. H. Soule and S. N. Phelps became pastors. At this time the Cedar City circuit was organized. In the fall of 1866, Austin was made a station, with Wayne Carver as pastor, and C. Hobart, as presiding elder. The next year J. O. Rich became presiding elder, and Rev. Carver was continued as pastor. A. J. Nelson came in 1868, with T. M. Gossard as presiding elder.

J. M. Rogers came in 1869; Rev. J. R. Creighton in 1870, one year; A. B. Bishop, 1871, two years; L. Hall, 1873, two years. In the fall of 1872, W. C. Rice became presiding elder, and was followed in 1875 by G. W. T. Wright, as presiding elder, and H. J. Crist became pastor. Succeeding Rev. Crist as pastor came Rev. O. Williams, Alfred Cressy, and Rev. E. R. Lathrop. Religious services were held for a long time at the house of Samuel Clayton. Repeated but unsuccessful efforts were made by the class and the preachers to find a place of worship in the village of Austin. The first meetings held in the village were at what was known as the Leverich House, which stood south of the old American House, probably in the year 1856-7. Afterward the building known as "old headquarters" was used. Still later a building on the corner of Mill and Chatham streets was fitted up with slab benches, by the Baptist society, and used alternately with that denomination. In July, Rev. Tice, with a class of twelve members, most of whom were women began the work of building the church now owned by the Norwegian Lutheran society. It was the first church building, and was erected under great discouragement. It is said that Mr. Tice shouldered a crow bar and waded into the river to quarry the rocks for a foundation.

The lumber was hauled from Winona. The bell in the steeple of this church was the first to break the primeval stillness and call the people to the house of God for worship. The cost of the church was \$1,400. A revival took place soon after the completion of the church, which added largely to the membership. The organ of the church



*Charles Lamb*

was the first cabinet organ brought to Mower county and was played upon at the services of dedication, by Mrs. D. B. Johnson, of Austin. A parsonage was erected in 1866, which considerably increased the indebtedness of the church. Three hundred dollars of the cost of the church still remained unpaid as late as 1876. An unfortunate enterprise was undertaken by the society in 1868. The plan embraced the construction of a block on the corner of Main and Water streets, opposite the Davidson House. The result of this enterprise, together with the previous unpaid indebtedness involved the loss of the church and parsonage, including large personal losses to some of the trustees and others. Rev. Bishop came to the church as pastor in 1871, and went bravely to work to repair the losses the church had sustained. The old school building was renovated and hired as a place of worship. It was finally decided to purchase the school building and lots on which it stood for \$1,500. The purchase was effected in September, 1873. The following year \$800 was expended in repairs and the church now has a comfortable and convenient place of worship, and both church and Sabbath school are in a flourishing condition.

Rev. Alfred Cressey was born in Brigg, Lincolnshire, England, April 29, 1838. His parents were pious, industrious people, who reared their children in the royal path of life. His father was an honest tradesman, who, by his toil and skill, was in after years in a financial condition to retire from active labor, living upon his income. His mother, of good old English type, was a Parker before marriage. Her father was a

local Methodist preacher. Alfred Cressey, the son, was educated at the Commercial Academy of Francis Bennett. At the age of 16 he came to America, expecting to return, but after becoming well acquainted with the young people in the State of Wisconsin, he concluded to remain in this country. He married Miss Hannah Phelps, daughter of Jeremiah Phelps, April 17, 1856, and the following fall they moved to Minnesota, landing in Austin township, at noon, October 13. He filed a claim on a quarter section of land, which he afterward entered. They have reared a family of six sons and daughters, two of whom are dead—Alice and Charlotte. Those living are: John A., Hattie B., Mary M. and Charles. The former is now a merchant at Northville, Dakota Territory. Rev. Mr. Cressey was converted under the preaching of Rev. David Tice, at Cedar City, in the winter of 1862. He was first licensed to exhort, May 5, 1862. As local preacher, May 9, 1863, and was ordained at Rochester, Minnesota, in 1867, by and under the hand of Bishop Mathew Simpson. He attended Hamlin University at Red Wing, Minnesota, for four years, after which he was stationed at Rockford, Wright county, for three years. He has held appointments at the following places: Monticello, Shakopee, Waseca, St. Peter, Austin, (two years) Kasson, Plainview.

He has ever been an ardent worker, holding some very important positions in the conferences throughout the State. He has preached the opening sermon at the conference at Minneapolis before a large audience, who paid him a high and complimentary tribute. In all he has taken four hundred persons into the Methodist church; also as-

sisted in the burial services of about eighty, one-half of whom were persons living in and about Austin.

Rev. A. C. Reynolds came to Austin in 1873. He is a native of York State, born in the town of Hebron, Washington county, November 3, 1833. His father, Caleb Reynolds, was a native of Dutchess county, New York, and a carpenter and joiner by trade. The subject of our sketch received his early education in the district school. When he was twenty-three years of age, he entered the Fort Edward Collegiate Institute, where he remained nearly two years, when he went to Concord, New Hampshire, and entered the Concord Biblical Institute, from which he graduated in 1861. He joined the Vermont conference at Barre, Vermont; was first stationed as pastor at St. Albans Bay. He afterward preached in different places in New York State and Vermont, until, on account of failing health, he abandoned the ministry for a time, and was engaged for a period of two years at Balston Spa, as a life and fire insurance agent. After this he resumed his calling, continuing the same in the east until 1873. In 1875 he joined the Minnesota conference, and was stationed at Spring Valley, and later at Byron, in Olmstead county, and at Blooming Prairie, and in the City of Austin. In 1882, he retired to his farm, and has since devoted his time to agricultural pursuits. His farm contains 240 acres, about 150 of which are improved. He was married in 1861, to Amanda M. Strever. She was born in the town of Argyle, Washington county, New York. This union has been blessed with six children, Hannah E., Wil-

liam A., Charles C., Frank Datus, Paul, Amanda.

#### THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The Congregational Union church of Austin, was organized July 6th, 1857, in what was known as "Headquarters," which stood on the place now occupied by Mr. Dunkleman's clothing store. The following are the names of the charter members, 15 in number: Mr. J. L. Davidson, Mrs. H. A. Davidson, Rev. Stephen Cook, Mrs. Jennett Cook, Mr. J. N. Cook, Mrs. L. A. Cook, Mr. J. N. Wheat, Mrs. Julia A. Wheat, Mr. J. S. Decker, Mrs. M. A. Decker, Mr. Obadiah Smith, Mrs. M. A. Smith, Mrs. Amanda Adams, Mr. J. Baker, Miss E. Bennett.

The church was organized by Rev. Stephen Cook, who continued its pastor for three years.

For seven years the church held its services in "Headquarters." In 1864, the Baptist house of worship being completed, was offered the Congregational church for its use, one-half of the time. The offer was accepted, and its services were held there for two years.

The next place of worship was the "Brick School House"—the building now occupied by the Methodist church.

In October, 1868, the present house of worship was completed and dedicated.

The succession of ministers has been as follows:

Rev. Stephen Cook, from July, 1857, to May 1860.

Rev. Nelson Cook, from May, 1860, to October, 1860.

Rev. Stephen Cook, from October, 1860, to May 1861.

Rev. C. C. Humphrey, from May, 1861, to May, 1863.

Rev. W. S. Clark, from May, 1863, to November, 1863.

Rev. W. J. Smith, from March, 1864, to November, 1864.

Rev. Alfred Morse, from December, 1864, to October, 1868.

Rev. E. M. Williams, from December, 1868, to December, 1870.

Rev. J. T. Graves, from January, 1871, to January, 1873.

Rev. Henry Ketcham, from June, 1873, to September, 1874.

The present pastor, Rev. C. E. Wright, commenced labor with the church December, 1874.

The whole number of members which the church has received is 382. It has a present membership of 225. Its Sunday School is large, and has an efficient corps of officers and teachers.

The first superintendent of the Sunday School was Herman R. Davidson.

The second was Wm. W. Cook, who held the position for 10 years.

The third was Harlan W. Page, who has held the office ever since, about 17 years.

The total benevolent contribution of the church for the last 16 years, so far as reported, is \$7,500.

Rev. Stephen Cook, first pastor of the Congregational Church in Austin, was born in New Haven, Vermont, in 1796. When about two years old he removed with his parents to Chateaugay, Franklin county, New York. Here growing to manhood, he received a common school education, and learned the trade of shoemaking. In early

youth he joined the Congregational Church, but not till thirty-eight years of age did he enter the ministry. His preparatory studies for the work were under the direction of Rev. Ashball Parmelee, well known in that region as Father Parmelee. For sixteen years before coming West, Mr. Cook was engaged in preaching at various places in the State of New York, including Willsborough, Peru, Adams Basin and Rochester. He then removed to Oberlin, Ohio. Although at this time lacking in physical strength, and in seeming need of continued rest, he was, as ever, impatient of inaction. Having entered the field it was not in his nature to turn back or let go the plow. During the ensuing period of five years he served as stated, supplying the churches at Berea, Olmstead, and Grafton. Coming to Minnesota in July, 1856, he settled in Austin, and shortly afterward founded here the first Congregational Church. While still zealously and successfully laboring in the gospel he was smitten with a fatal stroke of apoplexy. His death occurred in October, 1864.

Rev. Mr. Cook was married in Malone, N. Y., in the year 1819; to Jeanette Wyse, who was born in Claremont, New Hampshire, in December, 1800. They had four children, three of whom are now living, James N., John F., and Julia A., wife of Dr. Wheat, of Austin.

Rev. C. E. Wright is a native of Ashtabula county, Ohio, where he was born in 1845. He received his literary education at Oberlin College, from which he graduated in 1867. He then entered Union Theological Seminary, New York City, where he took the first part of his theological course, when

he returned to Oberlin and finished his course in the theological department of that college. His first pastoral charge was at Norwalk, Ohio, where he remained four years, and from there came to Austin.

#### THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AUSTIN

gathered under the labors of Rev. Edward F. Gurney, was organized January 31, 1858, in the upper room of the building known as "Old Headquarters," with nine constituent members. They were as follows: Rev. E. F. Gurney and wife, Rev. Milo Frarey and wife, Rev. Asa Marsh and wife, Horatio Marsh, Mrs. Rosamond Bates and Ellen Jones. The name selected was "First Baptist Church and Society of Austin, Minn." Asa Marsh, Ormanzo Allen and George H. Bemis were elected trustees. At a council of delegates from Baptist churches it was formally reorganized as a regular Baptist church June 20, 1858. The sermon was preached by Elder Town, and the prayer and right hand of fellowship by Elder Lowe. Rev. E. F. Gurney was called to the pastorate, but received no regular support until the spring following, when his salary was put at \$400 per annum, the Baptist Home Mission Society paying \$300 of this. The first baptism took place in the waters of the Red Cedar river April 22, 1860, in the person of Miss Sarah Bemis. The church then, as ever since, was active in religious work about the country, and Rev. Gurney's horse and buggy were familiar objects to the old settlers; and preaching stations were established in the towns of Windom, Moscow and at other points. The lot upon which the church edifice now stands was purchased in the fall of 1861, and Rev. Amory Gale, su-

perintendent of Baptist missions in Minnesota, went into the woods on the land of George H. Bemis and felled the first tree for lumber for the new church. November 15, 1861, Rev. Gurney, admonished by failing health, resigned the pastorate and died June 26, 1862, lamented by all as an able and faithful minister of Jesus Christ. Rev. H. I. Parker was called to succeed Rev. Gurney in the pastorate and entered actively upon its duties in February, 1862. In 1863 the church edifice, which is 28x50 feet in size, was erected, and on the 14th of June, 1864, it was dedicated. For two years the Congregationalists and Baptists worshiped in the church alternate Sabbaths, and after the Congregationalists established a place of meeting for themselves, the Episcopalians held services Sunday afternoons until 1868, when their building was completed. In May, 1872, letters of dismission were granted to thirty-two members to form a Baptist church in the town of Windom. The pastorate of H. I. Parker closed November 15, 1872, after a continuation of eleven years. During his term of service 155 were added to the church, 75 by baptism.

Rev. C. T. Emerson was called in the fall of 1873, and remained one year, receiving into the membership of the church 28, of which number 11 were by baptism. Rev. C. D. Belden preached his first sermon in Austin, November 8, 1874, and was invited November 15, to remain as a supply for three months. In February, 1875, the church extended a unanimous call to him to accept the regular pastorate, which he did, and filled the position until January 1, 1882, when he resigned to take the office of superinten-

dent of public schools of Mower county. During his pastorate, covering seven years, 121 members were admitted to the church, of which number 83 were by baptism. October 15, 1882, Rev. W. E. Stanley was called to the pastorate, and remains at the present time (1884.) The record of this church is characterized by steady growth, inward tranquility and the service of ministers of good report. It has suffered severely in common with most other churches in Southern Minnesota, by the loss of large numbers of useful members, who have sought homes in the west. Many of these little companies and individuals have become themselves sources of new church interests. The whole number of members enrolled since organization is 350. The present membership is 139. One minister only has been reared in the church, Rev. F. A. Marsh, now pastor of the First Baptist church of Beloit, Wisconsin. In connection with the church work the pastor publishes a monthly paper, called the *Herald*, which contains the church news, and is taken by the present and former members. It has a circulation of 150, and has just closed its fourth year. The church has a branch in the town of Oakland, Freeborn county, where the pastor holds services alternate Sunday afternoons.

Rev. Edward F. Gurney, the first pastor, was born in Cumington, Massachusetts, June 20, 1827. He graduated from Granville College, Ohio, now the Dennison University, in 1848, and from the Baptist Theological Seminary, in Rochester, New York, in July, 1853. He was ordained to the gospel ministry over the Baptist church at Woodstock, Illinois, and was married at about this time.

In 1857 he came to Minnesota and took a claim four miles west of Lansing. He walked from his farm to Austin alternate Sundays, holding the first regular appointments had here. He also collected the Baptist church of Lansing. He died June 26, 1862, leaving a wife and one child to mourn his loss.

Rev. Hervey I. Parker, the second pastor was born in Cavendish, Vermont, November 12, 1812. He graduated at Harvard College, in 1840, and in 1843 from Newton Theological Seminary. He was ordained at Factory Point, Manchester, Vermont, in 1842. In 1844, he took charge of the church in Burlington, Vermont, where he remained ten years. He was deeply interested in the cause of Christian education. He aided in building up the New Hampshire Literary and Theological Institution, at Fairfax, Vermont, and Beaver Dam and Fox Lake, Wisconsin, and was for a time President of the Board of Education of Minnesota. He was called to the pastorate of the church at Beaver Dam, enjoyed a great revival in his church in 1857-8, and finally worn with labor came to Minnesota, locating in Austin in 1861, and was called to the pastorate of the First Baptist church, which he held eleven years. In 1872, he removed to California, where he has rendered effective services, and has received several marks of esteem from his brethren, the degree of D. D., having been conferred upon him, and in 1883, he was elected President of the California Baptist State convention. He now resides at Santa Ana, California, and has retired from pastorate work.

Rev. C. T. Emerson, the third pastor, was

born in Hancock, New Hampshire, July 18, 1817. At an early day, his father and family removed to Ohio, where he spent his early days. In the year 1849, he graduated at Dennison University, Ohio, and after graduating accepted the position of senior tutor at Granville. His classmate, Rev. E. F. Gurney, was junior tutor in the same institution. Rev. Emerson remained three years at Granville. After teaching several years in high schools, he, at the age of 42 years, was settled and ordained in 1859, at Otsego, where he remained two years. At the end of this time he accepted a call to the church at Washington, the county seat of Fayette county, Ohio. In 1867 he moved to Buda, Illinois, where he preached for two years. He was next settled at Orion, Illinois, for four years. From thence he came to Austin, Minnesota, in October, 1873, where he remained one year. In May, 1875, he became pastor of the Baptist church at Riceville, Iowa, where he remained some two years, and then went to Moorhead, Minnesota, and took charge of a Baptist church at that place. There he remained until the time of his death, August 9, 1881. It is said of him: "He was a faithful pastor and a good man."

The other two pastors, Revs. C. D. Belden and W. E. Stanley, are treated at length elsewhere in this volume.

Rev. C. D. Belden, the fourth pastor, was born near Providence, Rhode Island, May 3, 1848. He enjoyed excellent religious and educational advantages, his father being a graduate of Yale college, and keeping a large private boarding school until compelled to desist on account of old age. Mr. Bel-

den fitted for college in the University Grammar school in Providence, and entered Brown University in the fall of 1864. After graduating in 1868 he was principal of the village public school near his home for three years and entered Croser Theological Seminary at Chester, near Philadelphia, where he graduated in 1874.

He came to Austin first as supply for three months in November, 1874, and was called to the pastorate of the First Baptist church the February following, which relation he sustained for seven years, resigning January 1, 1882, to fill the office of superintendent of schools for Mower county. In 1883 he was re-elected for the same position, but by virtue of the constitutional amendments adopted at the State election that fall, his term will not expire until January 1, 1887. He was married in June, 1877, to Mrs. Frascella Crandall, and has one child, Nettie, born in June, 1882. Mr. Belden is winning golden opinions as an educator, as he had before as a faithful minister of the gospel.

Rev. W. E. Stanley, pastor of the Baptist Church at Austin, is a native of North Attleborough, Massachusetts, where he was born September 28, 1844. He served in a company of heavy artillery, during the last year of the war, of the rebellion. At the close of the war he resumed his studies at Phillips' Academy, and took his theological course at Newton Theological Seminary, where he graduated in June 1873. He came directly to Minnesota, took charge of St. Cloud Baptist Church, where he remained till 1876, when he was called to Red Wing, where he remained till 1879, when he went to Troy,

Ohio, but owing to the ill health of his wife he returned to Minnesota in 1882, and was called to the pastoral charge of the Baptist Church in Austin.

Mrs. Stanley, formerly Annie E. Spicer, is a native of Minnesota, born in 1858. They have three children, Jessie L., Mary F., and Florence M.

Mr. Stanley is a wide-awake, active and industrious man, always taking an interest in public affairs. He is not only a good speaker but a good writer, and many sketches from his pen appear in various papers and magazines.

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The first services of this church in Austin were conducted by the Reverend Father Pendergast, from Winona, in 1858. These services were held at the residence of Aloysius Brown, in what is now the German Hotel. Father Pendergast held occasional services for about two years. Then Rev. George Keller came from Faribault, who held services once in two months, until the fall of 1866. Then came Rev. John McDermot, the first resident priest. He remained until 1869, when Father Keller supplied this charge for one or two years, when Father C. Genis, a French clergyman became the resident priest, and remained until 1874, and was succeeded by Rev. Father Paublin, who remained one year. Then came Rev. Arthur Hurley, now of Rosemond, near St. Paul, and remained until 1882, when Rev. C. Genis returned as pastor, and in December, 1883, was succeeded by the present pastor, Father Daniel O. Sullivan. The lots on which the church is located were donated by Messrs. Yates, Lewis and Fake. The members of

the church contributed in work, quarrying stone for the foundation, and manufacturing the brick for the building. The corner stone was laid by Rev. Father Keller, in the summer of 1862, but it was not until 1868 that the church building was fully completed. The cemetery grounds consist of thirty acres of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 10, in Austin township.

In connection with this church a Parochial School was opened by the Dominican Sisters, in September, 1873, in a building purchased by the congregation for that purpose, in 1872. This school has an attendance of one hundred and twenty pupils. There is also an organization in connection with the church known as "Father Mathew Total Abstinence Society," which was organized by Father Genis, in 1874 or 1875. It has a membership of about seventy-five. The congregation is composed of about two hundred families.

Among those prominently identified with the early history of the Catholic Church at Austin may be mentioned the following gentlemen: A. Brown, Thomas Gibson, William Rutherford, William Furlong, Sr., Cornelius Kenevan, and W. I. Brown.

Rev. Daniel O. Sullivan, the present pastor of the church, is a native of Ireland, and received his education at St. Patrick's Ecclesiastical College, in County Carlow. He came to the United States January, 1883, and was assistant pastor in a church at Minneapolis before assuming his present charge.

In this free republic it matters not what particular religious ideas are entertained by a citizen, so long as he is loyal to the government under which he lives and is sworn

to protect. And however widely others may differ with the Roman Catholic church, in the matter of religious belief, this must be placed to their credit, that during the long dark years of the civil war, the Catholic people in and about Austin were true and loyal to the stars and stripes. On the occasion of the corner stone laying of their church in August, 1863, Father Keller, who officiated, exhorted his people in a few well chosen words, to be true to the faith and loyalty of the country and its rulers. He also *denounced* the New York rioters and again admonished the congregation to obey law. After these remarks, the programme was concluded by placing within a tin box, which was set beneath the "corner stone," copies of the *Register* and *Courier*, and a copy of the Pope's speech. Also pieces of paper currency "shinplasters," then in use in this country, together with the names of all individuals who had paid toward erecting the church.

#### EPISCOPAL CHURCH—CHRIST'S CHURCH.

The first services of this denomination held in Austin were conducted by Bishop Whipple in February, 1862. Rev. Woodward and Rev. Burleson also conducted services here previous to the organization of a society. Rev. Peake came in the fall of 1865, and services were held in the Baptist church. In January following a society was organized and Rev. Peake became the first rector. The first vestry was composed of J. M. Vandegrift and James M. Clarke, wardens, with members, J. M. Lewis, Andrew Grinnel, Samuel Dodge, D. L. Merrell, D. P. Bosworth and S. F. Austin. Rev. Peake remained until June 24, 1866, when he re-

signed, and was succeeded January 30, 1867, by Rev. Lewis W. Gibson, through whose influence a church was erected, which was completed in 1868. The first services in the new church were held on Thanksgiving day, 1868. In November, 1869, Rev. Gibson resigned, and in the following February, Rev. Thomas E. Dickey became rector, and retained the position until February, 1872, when he was succeeded by Rev. I. Jerome Townsend, who remained till the 30th of November, 1875. In January, 1876, Rev. Robert Reed Goudy became rector. He resigned in June, 1877, and was followed in April, 1878, by Rev. John Anketell, who remained about two years. The church was then without a rector, holding occasional services till the coming of Rev. C. H. Beauliese, in February, 1882. He remained until January, 1883, since which time the church has been without a rector. The first baptism in the chapel was that of an infant daughter of Thomas Vandegrift, January 31, 1869. The church was consecrated August 21, 1872, by Bishop Whipple. There were fifty-four members of the society and fifteen communicants in 1884, but no vestry nor rector, the parish being in charge of the Gild (or Guild). Removals and deaths have caused a great depletion in the membership of the church. The society is greatly indebted to Rev. Lewis W. Gibson, during whose pastoral charge the church was built, for the degree of success it has attained. He was a man of great energy and ability. From Austin he went to Philadelphia, where he was assistant rector of St. James church one year. From thence he went to Dover, Delaware, where he is pastor of Christ's church.

## THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

In 1867 Rev. H. A. Mayhew visited Austin for the special purpose of looking up Presbyterians who had not connected themselves with any church organization. He collected a number together and preached to them at such times as he could procure a room. August 20, 1867, he, assisted by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, by authority of the Presbytery of Southern Minnesota, organized the first Presbyterian church of Austin. On the 20th of October, 1867, Rev. Mayhew organized the society into a business meeting which elected the following board of trustees: Ira Jones, Lyman A. Sherwood, James C. Day, T. W. Woodard and Joseph G. Warner. The board organized by electing Ira Jones chairman, L. A. Sherwood clerk and James C. Day treasurer. The congregation authorized the trustees to purchase a lot and erect a suitable house of worship. They purchased a lot on the corner of St. Paul and mill streets, and in the spring of 1868 erected the house of worship where, June 11, 1868, the congregation met and elected Geo. Johnston and Robert F. Rankin ruling elders, and on the 24th of the same month the church edifice was dedicated to the service of God, the dedicational sermon being preached by Rev. Sheldon Jackson. At the close of the service \$500 was raised by subscription to pay off the church debt. At that time the membership numbered seventeen, with Rev. H. A. Mayhew as pastor. In the fall of 1874 the church was closed. Since then there has not been regular services therein, though the church organization remains perfect, the ruling elders being R. N. Paden and H.

Frederickse. The trustees are R. N. Paden, T. W. Woodard, Joseph Schwan, H. Frederickse, F. J. Mayhew, and F. A. Engle.

Rev. DeWitt was the last pastor the church had—he left in 1874. This church never was a very strong one and finally its membership passed over to the Congregational society. This church building is now (1884) used by the Grand Army Post. The organization of the society still exists, however. The present trustees are H. Frederickse, J. Schwan and F. A. Engle.

## THE LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Lutheran church of Austin was organized by Rev. C. L. Clauson October 28, 1867. The same pastor had preached the first sermon of this denomination at Austin about two years previous to that time. The church was organized under the name of "The St. Olaf Scandinavian Church of Austin." The first services were held at the house of Nels Johnson. The following were enrolled upon the church records as the first members: Iver Nelson and family, Syver Olson and family, Peter Knudson and family, Carl M. Bolnner, Nels Johnson and family, John Halverson, Jacob Johnson, Ole Jacobson, Ole Mickleson and family, F. B. Frost and family, Nels Olson and family.

In 1870 the Methodist church building was purchased for \$1,500. Rev. C. L. Clauson was the first pastor and was succeeded by Rev. P. Ostby, who was pastor of the church for about seven years, when Rev. Clauson was returned, and was still serving the church in 1884, being assisted by Swend Strand. At this date the church has about 150 adult members. The Sunday school is attended by about 50 scholars,

who are taught by the following teachers : John Wold, T. Martinson, L. Schulstad and C. F. Clauson.

#### THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH.

The Universalist Society was organized in April, 1868. Immediately after the organization, Rev. Mr. Wakefield engaged to preach for the society every two weeks for one year; the meetings were held in the Court House. This arrangement was continued with an occasional interruption, till the spring of 1873, when the county commissioners for some reason, never understood by the society, or for no reason, denied them the further use of the court room, in which to worship. During the next year meetings were held whenever a suitable room could be obtained. Through the kindness of the Baptist society, their church was occupied a few times; the Lutheran church was also open to them, and once or twice meetings were held in the new chapel on the east side of the river.

Early in the year 1874, the society hired the Presbyterian church for three months, hoping in that time to complete a church edifice of their own, for the building of which arrangements were then being made. On the 28th of October of that year the society's new church was dedicated to the worship of Almighty God. Mr. Wakefield's last engagement terminated in the spring of 1875. After this, until the calling of the present (1876) pastor, Rev. J. W. Eldridge, who commenced his labors in October of the same year, only occasional services were held. At the present time, (1876) the society is in a fairly prosperous condition, the meetings are well attended and a good degree of interest manifested. A church organization

has just been completed of over twenty-five members, and the communion service was observed for the first time on the second Sunday of the present month (February, 1876). A Sabbath school was organized during the first year of the society's existence, and is in a flourishing condition. Thus, through many discouragements, and not a little opposition, the society has journeyed on till it has found a Sunday home, which it may call its own. And now permit me to add, that the greater responsibility, which their present increased facilities for work involve, the society and church most reverently, yet cheerfully recognize and accept, and the duties which spring therefrom, they will faithfully endeavor to perform.

Rev. Eldridge was succeeded in 1880 by Rev. R. G. Spafford, who remained till February, 1883, since which time they have had no regular pastor.

Among the prominent members of this church is William A. Crane, the fifth son of a family of eleven children; was born at Dighton, Massachusetts, on the 17th of April, 1813. His father, Barnabas Crane, was a sea captain in the merchant trade between New York and the West Indies, for over thirty-five years; the older sons also engaged quite actively as merchant men in the coast trade. At the age of eighteen, William, having spent his younger days on the home farm and at the common school of his native town, where he had acquired a good English education, commenced for himself at Bloomfield, New York, as a Yankee pedlar, being the fortunate possessor of two tin trunks, filled with notions and dry goods.

After continuing in the vocation of pedler for two years, the Connecticut Reserve of Northern Ohio, having been opened up for settlement, he with his father's family was induced to venture into the unsurveyed wilderness of the then far West. Accordingly, in the spring of 1833, Barnabas Crane and his eight surviving children, after many weeks of tedious journeying, settled in the town of Sharon, Medina county, Ohio. Here the quiet tenor of their days, spent in clearing up the heavily timbered lands, bore strange contrast with the excitement and dangers incident to a maritime life; but with a generous ambition to accomplish and excel, this colony of merchant sailors settling upon adjoining tracts of land, soon had comfortable and pleasant homes and became foremost among their peers.

On the 3rd of July, 1839, William A. Crane married Laura Chatfield, the fourth daughter of William Chatfield, who was born at Camillus village, Onondaga county, New York, July 20, 1820. William Chatfield had moved with his family from New York, and settled in Sharon in the spring of 1835. These early pioneers lived to see and enjoy a good old age, with their children and families settled comfortably about them upon farms cleared and made productive and beautiful by the labor of their own hands.

The subject of this sketch made a careful study of farming, his chosen pursuit, reducing its different branches to a system, and setting the example of eminent success in the business, was a practical advocate of a higher standard of intelligence among the cultivators of the soil.

Always a great reader, he naturally took a

lively interest in all educational and political questions of the day, for several years of his early pioneer life serving as teacher of common schools in the town of his adoption. In politics he was a Democrat of the Jefferson school until 1856, when the Kansas trouble relating to the extension of slave territory brought him out a staunch Republican, of which party and its principles he ever remained a strong supporter. From 1856 to 1865, he took a deep interest in the political changes which rapidly swept over the country, and was often found an earnest and warm advocate of the principles of his party at the political gatherings for which Ohio particularly became noted both before the war of the rebellion and during its continuance. He was an admirer of Lincoln's administration, and was outspoken in denouncing traitors in the North as well as South. He was also a warm, personal friend of the lamented Garfield, to whom he rendered valuable assistance in raising his regiment, the 42d Ohio Infantry.

In 1863, when political excitement in Ohio was at its extreme height, in order to modify and heal, if possible, long-standing differences, then greatly embittered by the war, he resolved to separate himself as far as convenient from the scenes and memories thereof. When the autumn had come, his plans being perfected, he sold the old homestead of nearly thirty years' occupancy, and removed with his family to Minnesota, purchasing in December, 1863, soon after his arrival, the farm one-half mile north of the city of Austin, which became the new home in the West. Respected by all, here he lived, surrounded by his family, as one of the patri-

archs of old. Here he died on the 7th of May, 1877.

The surviving members of his family are his widow, Laura C. Crane, who continued to reside upon the home farm until it was sold on the 5th of July, 1884, Eugene B. Crane, a practicing attorney of the city of Austin, Frank I. Crane, a lumber merchant, in Austin, Flora C. Conner, wife of Dr. Jesse L. Conner, of Minneapolis, Oliver M. Crane, at present living in Minneapolis.

In religious questions, William A. Crane was a consistent believer in the final restoration of all men to a condition of peace with their Creator. He was one of the most active members of the Universalist Church in Shawn, Ohio, for more than twenty-five years, and was one of the first to organize and help maintain the Universalist Society and Church in Austin, and always one of its most devoted workers. In his daily walk among his fellow men, he was an esteemed citizen, an exemplary Christian.

#### SOCIETIES.

Fidelity Lodge, No. 39, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons was organized on the 5th of December, 1861, under a dispensation granted by the Right Worshipful Grand Master of the State of Minnesota. The principal officers of said lodge were as follows: B. F. Jones, W. M.; E. W. Ford, S. W.; A. S. Lott, J. W., and Oliver Somers, secretary, with a membership of ten.

On the 28th of October, 1863, a charter was granted said lodge, and the following persons were duly installed as its principal officers: B. F. Jones, W. M.; J. C. Ackley, S. W.; Oliver Somers, J. W., and L. R. Hathaway, secretary, with a membership of

about fifty. The present membership is 118. The present (1884) officers are as follows: Joseph Adams, W. M.; M. Becker, S. W.; H. A. Avery, J. W.; A. Friedrich, treasurer; L. G. Basford, secretary; William Todd, S. D.; A. J. Sharpstine, J. D.; John Walsh, Sr. S.; W. K. Vandergrift, Jr. S.; W. E. Stanley, Chaplain; A. Drost, Tyler.

The Masters have been: B. F. Jones, C. J. Paddock, Oliver Somers, D. B. Johnson, Jr., L. R. Hathaway, A. J. Phelps, G. G. Clemmer, J. M. Greenman, I. Ingmundson, J. W. Eldridge, W. T. Wilkins and Joseph Adams.

Royal Arch Chapter No. 14 was duly instituted March 14, 1867, under a dispensation by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Minnesota, with C. H. Paddock, as High Priest; Solomon Snow, King; A. B. Vaughan, Scribe; H. M. Allen, secretary, with a membership of nine. On the 14th of December, 1867, a charter was granted said chapter, and the same officers having been re-elected (with exception of secretary, J. C. Smith, elected to that office,) they were duly installed.

The officers for 1884 were: Eugene Wood, M. E. H. P.; W. T. Wilkins, E. K.; Anton Friedrich, E. Scribe; C. L. West, Treasurer; F. I. Crane, Secretary; Joseph Schwan, C. of H.; Gehial L. Case, P. S.; Henry B. Corey, R. A. C.; J. H. Patterson, M. 3d V.; George Hamberg, M. 2d V.; L. G. Basford, M. 1st V.; A. Drost, Sentinel.

At the above date the lodge numbered 69 members, and was in a flourishing condition.

St. Bernard's Commandery No. 13, of Austin, was organized by dispensation from the Grand Commandery of the State of Minne-

sota, January 20, 1881, and was chartered June 24, 1881.

The following were the charter members: D. B. Smith, Eminent Commander; Eugene Wood, Generalissimo; J. S. Anderson, Captain General; Daniel P. Johnson, Jr., P.; Stephen Ives, Junior Warden; Edward C. Dorr, Treasurer; Charles H. Davidson, Recorder; John Mahoney, Standard Bearer; M. E. Frisbee, Sword Bearer; John Frank Warder; A. J. Vanderworker, Sentinel.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Austin Lodge, No. 20, was chartered on the 15th of January, 1865. The charter members were: H. A. Mayhew, O. Somers, Aaron S. Everest, Bazil Smout, L. W. Smith, T. W. Woodard, A. J. Phelps, N. P. Austin, R. I. Smith, Joseph Schwan and L. Bourgard. The first officers elected, as shown by the records, were as follows: H. A. Mayhew, N. G.; Oliver Somers, V. G.; Bazil Smout, Secretary; T. W. Woodard, Treasurer; Levi W. Smith, Warden; Aaron S. Everest, Conductor; A. J. Phelps, R. S. N. G.; L. Bourgard, O. S. G.; H. M. Allen, L. S. V. G.; Lyman Sherwood, L. S. N. G.; George G. Clemmer, L. S. V. G.; David Banks, I. G. The following is a list of the presiding officers—Noble Grands—who have served the lodge: H. A. Mayhew, Oliver Somers, A. S. Everest, R. I. Smith, C. H. Davidson, Joseph Schwan, Herman Gunz, A. G. Lawyer, George F. Frenwith, E. P. Van Valkenburgh, John Chandler, Rush B. Davis, F. J. Mayhew, A. E. Meigs, P. O. French, Joseph Reinsmith, Lafayette French, D. H. Stimson, A. W. Kimball, C. H. Wilbour, H. W. Elms, Edward Bigelow, W. H. H. Bullock, John V. Owens and S. Sweningsen.

The present officers are as follows: Lafayette French, N. G.; John Fisher, V. G.; Will Richardson, R. S.; D. H. Stimson, P. S.; J. Schwan, Treasurer; C. E. Clark, Warden; Frank Richards, C.; J. V. Owens, O. G.; O. L. Gibbons, I. G.; L. Dettelbach, R. S. N. G.; S. Sweningsen, L. S. N. G.; David Turner, R. S. V. G.; J. Weisel, L. S. V. G. The first meetings were held in a frame building on Main street, where Levy's store now stands. This place was used until the completion of Richard's block, which was then used for a place of meeting, until the summer of 1883, when the building was taken down, owing to its being unsafe, and rebuilt by Mr. Rollins. Meetings are still held in it. The condition of the lodge is good and their hall is well furnished. The following have been chosen from this lodge as delegates to the Grand Lodge: Rev. H. A. Mayhew, H. Gunz, E. P. Van Valkenburgh, Joseph Reinsmith, Lafayette French, John Chandler, C. H. Davidson and H. W. Adams.

#### AUSTIN FLORAL CLUB AND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

This society is composed of ladies exclusively. It has been in active operation since 1869, and for this reason may justly claim to be one of the permanent institutions of Austin and Mower county. In its formation two objects were in view: To promote taste and skill in horticulture and to establish a circulating library. Directly upon the organization in March, 1869, set themselves vigorously at work in the first direction by providing seeds, bulbs and plants for those desiring them and by holding semi-monthly meetings to discuss the best methods of cultivation for their success. So much

interest was manifested that in a very short time the twelve names appended to the constitution were followed by over thirty additional ones. In this high tide of enthusiasm it was resolved to make preparation for a floral show, the avails of which, it was hoped, might enable the society to take the second step toward which its every energy was then full bent. The floral show was held in the month of August in an unfinished brick store, and despite all the disadvantages of the situation it was made a grand success. Citizens were now invited to lend a helping hand by the gift of a book to swell the well founded library, each donor to receive a certificate of membership which should entitle him or her to the use of the whole library. One hundred and twenty three volumes were thus collected and 100 were purchased with the avails of the floral show. This made 223 volumes in all. The library was opened November 1st. Each member of the club paid \$1 annually for the use of books, and the general public \$2. For a number of years ladies were found who were willing to take charge of the books free. Entertainments of various kinds brought in funds. Literary sociables, with mite collections, contributed their small amounts year after year and new volumes were added, thus gladdening the hearts of the untiring lady workers. Lists of good and useful books were prepared by committees chosen for that purpose, to whom any member might suggest whatever she deemed proper. Then the whole list was properly gone over at a regular business meeting, at which time each book was reviewed, passed

upon, ordered or rejected by vote of those who were present.

In 1871 it was voted to subscribe for some of the monthly journals. These subscriptions have been renewed yearly ever since, the numbers of each being carefully preserved for binding purposes. It was found that the bound volumes of such magazines as Harpers, Lippincotts, The Century and others were in great demand at a cash value. As the library increased in real worth it was thought desirable to secure an act of incorporation. It is believed to be the only female society in Minnesota which has placed itself thus upon record as a legal body. The value of a share in its stock was placed at \$2.50, each share representing one vote in the management of the property, and no one to hold more than twelve shares. Unused donor's certificates might be exchanged for shares and each working member paying regular dues for five years in succession, should be entitled to one additional share.

The average annual receipts and expenditures have been about \$175. It has always been a rule *emphatically* lived up to, not to incur a debt. Prior to 1884 only one cash donation had been received. This was \$25 from Rev. E. M. Williams, in addition to books worth as much more. Representatives from this district have dealt a liberal share of the books distributed at Washington, so that their case of "Pub. Doc's" is now well filled.

The library now occupies a snug corner in the basement of the new court house. It contains at this time (1884) 1,060 volumes, and is open to the public on three afternoons and evenings of the week. This society and

the good work they have done bespeaks well for the ladies of the city of Austin and community around.

CENTENNIAL AND EARLY SETTLERS  
REUNION, 1876.

[*Published in the Register.*]

Under the direction of the members of the Ladies' Floral Club and Austin Circulating Library, a grand re-union was held at Jones' Hall, Austin, on the evening of February 22, 1876, to "commemorate Washington's birthday, to note the centennial year, and place the guidestone 'one-fourth of a century,' to mark the age and advancement of the present flourishing city of Austin." The walls of the hall were beautifully decorated with flags. Upon one worn, torn and battered was seen this motto and date:

"THE FIRST FLAG OF AUSTIN—1856."

Another somewhat soiled was the flag presented to Co. K., 4th Minnesota Regiment, by the ladies of Austin at the time of its organization in Mower county, and borne by the brave soldiers through many a battle of the rebellion.

The meeting was called to order by O. W. Shaw, after which Rev. C. E. Wright delivered the opening address. After some music and partaking of supper, Mrs. J. L. Davidson announced toasts as follows:

THE EARLY SETTLERS.

I. Vanderwarker, an old-time settler at that time living at Lansing, was expected to respond to this sentiment, but he was absent, so it was passed, and

THE FIRST MILL AND MANUFACTURES  
was announced and was responded to by Mr.

Q. A. Truesdell, who said in substance: "He was not the first miller in Austin; the first mill in Austin was of the primitive kind, made and used by the Indians; it was located on the west side of the Cedar river, about twenty rods above Mr. Engle's dam. A white oak stump was hollowed out in the top in the shape of a mortar, and with a wooden pestle the corn was pounded fine, mixed up with water, and baked in the hot coals. Some of the corn was begged from the inhabitants and some stolen." In the month of November, 1858, the Truesdell Brothers started up the first water mill. The mill was made of iron, and ran night and day part of the time. It was valuable at the time for grinding corn, there being no other mill nearer than a distance of thirty miles. Mr. Rose, of Rose Creek, brought the first sack of wheat and had it ground into flour, and when we met afterwards he told me the bread made from the flour was very black and not fit to eat. Most of the pioneers well remember what was called the "Water Johnny Cake Period," when there was little else than corn meal for bread, and not enough of that. Mr. Aloysius Brown was in trade at that time, and did a large business in furnishing flour to the settlers. He had teams drawing flour from Chatfield and Decorah, Iowa; but this whole country was wet and soft that but small loads could be brought in, and it took a long time to make a trip. Our supplies were chiefly drawn from Winona. They could not be procured to keep up with the demand, and such was Mr. Brown's impartiality that he caused the sacks to be distributed in such a manner that every family should receive each

a sack before any supplied were allowed to purchase the second. The settlers who came in years later know but little what privations the first ones endured. The first steam mill was built by J. Bourgard and Asa Marsh, on the east side of town, and after a while it was fitted up with buhrs for grinding, and it was operated by Mr. Bourgard. In the fall of 1856, Q. A. and W. Truedell put machinery in a building where Warner's mill now (1876) stands, and for a long time manufactured furniture, but after a time the dam went out and the premises were abandoned.

#### THE PERSON WHO BROKE THE FIRST GROUND.

Mr. D. J. Tubbs was called upon to respond, was not present. In this connection the *Register* said: "We believe David Oliver to have broken the first ground on the 40 acres now platted and known as 'Parker & Brown's' addition to Austin."

#### THE FIRST HOTEL.

Geo. E. Wilbour responding, said: I did not keep the first hotel. There were three before mine, kept by Leverich, Brown and McKinley. McKinley built the first building for hotel purposes erected in Austin, on the present site of the Central House. Solomon Snow and myself became proprietors of this building in 1856, by purchase, after which it was known as the "Snow House." Although I was not the first landlord in the place, I represent the first *first-class hotel*. We had four lodging rooms, and from twenty to forty guests every night. To accommodate them we were obliged to open "the school section," in which were eleven beds. Our beds were filled with prairie hay. Our bill of fare was pork, biscuit and dried apple sauce for breakfast; fried pork, biscuit and

apple sauce for dinner; and about the same or some of both for supper. But as it was first class, and as I do not wish to misrepresent, would say we occasionally had a little fresh beef. From 9 to 12 o'clock every evening the boys held a *literary sociable*, consisting of original recitations, interspersed with *more or less music*.

#### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

Dr. J. N. Wheat responded by telling a little of his own experience in the winter of 1856, when the snow was four feet deep on the level, and drifted badly in places, and at times so crusted over with ice that a man could walk upon it without much difficulty, only breaking through occasionally. Over or through this depth of snow he was called professionally to attend a patient in the Vanderwalker neighborhood, a settlement some six miles northwest of Austin city. Here he found twenty-three persons, men, women and children, inhabiting one log house, 14x16, without floor or windows, unless the two small lights of glass framed in the logs might be called such; with stools for chairs; prairie grass for beds, and without bread or vegetables for food. Here were three persons dangerously sick, and in order to give them proper attention found it necessary to make the journey every other day on foot, often breaking through the snow crust and sinking to the body, "in great discouragement." Sometimes, starting from home, where J. M. Flowers now lives, early in the morning he would not reach his place of destination till near noon, when he would dine with the family on slap jacks and molasses, with a little salt added, the dinner being a little extra, the Doctor being company

and expected to partake. It is but justice to the Doctor's perseverance, if not to his skill, to say that his patients recovered, and that the inmates of the log house "swarmed" the next spring as soon as the snow melted and houses could be built, and found homes in and about the same neighborhood.

The following was offered at the "Centennial Meeting" in response to a call for "The Mite Society and Cemetery Association":

It is with pleasure that I recall the eventful period of the organization of the Ladies' Mite Society of Austin. Our little village had a population of over four hundred inhabitants and as yet we had no suitable place for burial. A few ladies talked the matter over one afternoon and concluded to see what they could do in the matter. A meeting was called by them, to be held at the house of J. L. Davidson, for the purpose of forming a society. The object in view was to procure lands suitable for a burial ground. On the 1st of February, 1862, a large number of ladies met, pursuant to the call, with Mrs. Davidson. After some discussion the society was formally organized by the election of officers: Mrs. J. L. Davidson, president; Mrs. Ormanzo Allen, secretary. It was decided that gentlemen should be allowed to join the society, but the ladies should do the voting. The first regular meeting was held at the house of Mrs. J. L. Clark. A committee was appointed to look at land belonging to Mr. H. Baudler, with a view to buy it if it suited and could be procured. The gentlemen, thinking about this time, that it was too great an undertaking for the ladies, offered to purchase the land

themselves, and as we had "set the ball rolling," we felt that it would gather no moss. We therefore gave the purchasing of the land to the gentlemen, and voted to use our funds for fencing the land which the gentlemen should procure. After the land was purchased the ladies of the Mite Society were invited to give the name, and at a regular meeting, after several names had been proposed and discussed, it was unanimously decided that "Oakwood" should be the name chosen by the society for the cemetery.

There is one event connected with the Mite Society that will long be remembered. I have reference to the day when Austin seemed like a deserted village; when her stores were closed and hardly a person to be seen upon her streets. Early in the morning men were seen with axes, spades and shovels, answering the invitation of the ladies to spend the day in clearing the brush and grubs from the cemetery grounds. It was a beautiful day in the month of August, 1864. In William Crane's house and yard, which had been kindly offered for our use, all was life and motion, for there were the ladies preparing dinner for the men at work across the way. The tables were spread under the trees and ample justice was done by those it was prepared for. After dinner, the gentlemen resumed their work, many of the ladies helping them, and at night, when they were called to supper, the cemetery presented a very different appearance from that in the morning. About the last work of the society was to employ Dr. J. N. Wheat to letter the arch over the gateway. Long may the memory of the Ladies'

Mite Society remain in the hearts of the earliest settlers.

A. O. U. W. LODGE NO. 32,

was organized in November, 1877. The following were the first officers:

D. B. Smith, P. M. W.; L. G. Wheeler, M. W.; A. W. Kimball, G. F.; F. A. Richardson, O.; Charles H. Wilbour, Rec.; E. P. VanValkenburg, Financier; Edwin French, R.; W. K. Hunkins, Guide; F. H. Sterling, I. W.; John Chandler, O. W.

In August, 1884, this lodge was in a flourishing condition, and had a membership of about 40.

LEGION OF HONOR, AUSTIN LODGE, NO. 144, was organized May, 26, 1880. The following is a list of Charter members including the officers:

Andrew Knox, C.; S. L. Howell, V. C.; W. H. Merrick, O.; L. G. Wheeler, P. C.; J. W. Andrew, Secretary; O. C. Lea, Col.; Fay R. Smith, T.; C. E. Wright, Chap.; L. H. Brockway, —, J. P. Squires, M. E.; C. M. Fernald, Leon Dettelbach, Dan Johnson, W. T. Wilkins, L. G. Basford, W. A. Richardson, W. A. Hotchkiss, F. A. Richardson, F. R. Campbell, R. Dunkleman, H. Frederickse, Herman Sprague, W. W. Patterson, M. B. Slocum, A. W. Garred, George M. Fish, J. Levy, Henry R. Ott, J. B. Yates.

The Austin Farmer's Alliance, No. 71, was organized on the 13th day of March, 1882, with fourteen charter members. They were as follows: J. J. Furlong, F. A. Richardson, William Cowan, Thomas Malone, A. Dickerson, Jonas Haney, W. I. Brown, A. Morse, Thomas Craig, D. C. Kenevan, J. C. Hawk-

ins, Joseph Keenan, J. B. Revord, V. P. Lewis, and J. T. Sargent. The first officers were: J. J. Furlong, President; F. A. Richardson, Secretary, and A. Dickerson, Treasurer. The Alliance holds frequent meetings at the Court house. In the winter of 1883-4 meetings were held once in two weeks, at which various matters and questions of importance to the agriculturist were discussed. The Alliance has flourished, and in May, 1884, had a membership of upwards of 100.

Austin Royal and Select Masters, No. 7, was instituted in May, 1882. The officers of this Masonic order were: D. B. Smith, T. I. M.; Henry R. Wells, D. I. L. L. M.; E. Wood, P. C. of W.; Charles H. Davidson, Recorder; Anton Friedrich, C. of G.; James S. Anderson, C. of C.; Frank D. Beecher, S.; A. R. Vanderwarker, Sentinel.

MCINTYRE POST, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

About 1872, a Post was organized at Austin and run for a time, but like too many of the original G. A. R. Posts, it soon went down. But, March 7, 1884, a new Post was organized, known as the McIntyre Post, No. 66.

The new Post was organized by A. Swift, assisted by Comrades C. A. Warren, M. B. Johnson, B. Maxwell, N. N. Parmenter, B. E. Stimson and others, of the Henry Rogers Post No. 11, G. A. R., at Brownsdale.

The following were the first officers:  
 Capt. W. H. Sutton, Post Commander.  
 A. E. Christie, Sen. Vice Commander.  
 G. L. Case, Jun. Vice Commander.  
 Rev. W. E. Stanley, Chaplain.  
 H. W. Lightly, Officer of the Day.  
 John V. Owens, Quarter Master.  
 C. N. Beiseker, Officer of the Guard.  
 Seymour Johnson, Adjutant.

M. M. Trowbridge, Sergeant Major.  
H. B. Corey, Q. M. Sergeant.

It was voted to call the Post "McIntyre" Post, after Capt. P. T. McIntyre, of the 18th Wisconsin, and formerly County Auditor and Treasurer, who died in Austin about three years ago. The vote stood 26 for "McIntyre," and 25 for "McPherson," in honor of Gen. McPherson.

Below we append a list of the members of the new organization, with the regimental connection of each.

P. J. Cratzer, private Co. F, 151st Ind. Vol. Inf't.  
Seymour Johnson, private Co. A, 32d Wis. Vol. Inf't.  
W. H. Witham, private Co. B, 106th N. Y. Vol. Inf't.  
W. E. Stanley, private 29th Co., Mass. H. A. Vol.  
J. A. Pierce, private Co. A, 3d Wis. Vol. Inf't.  
George Fiehn, private Co. A, 13th Wis. Vol. Inf't.  
J. R. Evans, private Co. H, Batal. U. S. I. 16th Reg.  
John Watkins, Jr., private Co. C, 9th Minn. Vol. Inf't.  
J. H. Mansfield, Col., Keng's Staff.  
D. E. Bero, private Co. C, 9th Minn. Vol. Inf't.  
Sam. H. Judd, Capt. Co. H, 153d Ill. Vol. Inf't.  
H. W. Lightly, private Co. H, 29th Wis. Vol. Inf't.  
Francis Neller, private Co. H, 2d Minn. Vol. Inf't.  
Jerry Ingalls, private Co. I, 26th N. Y. Vol. Inf't.  
R. M. Boyd, private Co. B, 37th Wis. Vol. Inf't.  
Chas. J. Miller, Sergt. Co. A, 1st Wis. Art. Vol.  
Wilson Beach, Corp. Co. H, 1st Minn. M. R.  
Geo. W. Varco, private Co. B, 2d Minn. Cav.  
J. H. DeRemer, private Co. F, 3d Minn. Vol. Inf't.  
J. C. Hawkins, Corp. 2d Ohio H. Art.  
William Brecken, private Co. C, 9th Minn. Vol. Inf't.  
John Connor, private Co. G, 6th Wis. Vol. Inf't.  
Abram Newell, private Co. I, 17th Ill. Cav.  
M. M. Trowbridge, Serg., Co. C, 1st Wis. Vol. Inf't.  
A. E. Christie, Sergt. Co. D, 19th Wis. Vol. Inf't.  
Henry B. Corey, Corp. Co. A, 2d Minn. Cav. Reg.  
John V. Owens, private Co. K, 5th N. Y. H. A.  
W. H. Sutton, Capt. Co. I, 31st Ohio Vol. Inf't.  
G. L. Case, Capt. Co. H, 122d U. S. C. T.  
Samuel Pinkham, private Co. C, 3d Wis. Cav.  
H. H. Kent, Landsman U. S. Navy.  
J. D. Woodward, private Co. I, 1st N. Y. L. Art.  
Orrin H. Brown, Sergt. Co. B, 115th N. Y. Vol. Inf't.  
W. D. Hogan, Corp. Co. K, 1st Conn. H. Art.  
James Donaldson, Sergt. Co. E, 28th Wis. Vol. Inf't.  
S. W. Rice, private Co. C, 9th Minn. Vol. Inf't.  
M. Becker, private Co. D, 22d Wis. Inf't.  
G. S. Cooper, private Co. G, 12th Wis. Vol. Inf't.

Simeon Chapman, private Co. I, 105th Pa. Vol. Inf't.  
H. G. Case, Sergt. Co. A, 2d Minn. Vol. Inf't.  
John E. Robinson, Corp. Co. B, 2d Minn. Cav.  
E. P. Spooner, Sergt. Co. C, 9th Minn. Vol. Inf't.  
R. Brooks, private Co. C, 17th Ind. Vol. Inf't.  
C. N. Beiseker, private Co. F, 67th N. Y. Vol. Inf't.  
Jos. Stephenson, private Co. C, 117th N. Y. Vol. Inf't.  
Isaac N. Howe, private Co. M, 12th Ill. Cav.  
Jehial Woodward, private Co. B, 116th N. Y. Vol. Inf't.  
A. J. Sharpstine, private Co. K, 142d N. Y. Vol. Inf't.  
Henry Peck, private Co. B, 2d Minn. Vol. Inf't.  
D. B. Johnson, Jr., 1st Lieut. 1st Reg. Minn. M. R.  
Walter F. Sutherland, Sergt. Co. B, U. S. Eng. Bat.  
E. L. Merry, private Co. F, 5th Minn. Vol. Inf't.  
John Robertson, Sergt. Co. F, 42d Wis. Vol. Inf't.  
Robert O'Brien, private Co. H, 44th Wis. Vol. Inf't.

George O. White served in the late war in Co. I, First Pennsylvania Rifles. He enlisted August, 31, 1861, and served three years, during which time he participated in many important battles, of which we mention this following: Fredericksburg, Wilderness, and Gettysburg. He was honorably discharged, at the expiration of his term of enlistment, in August, 1864. He was born in McKean county, Pennsylvania, July 31, 1838. When he was sixteen years of age, his parents moved to Illinois, and settled in Winnebago county, where they lived two years, after which they moved to Winnebago county, Wisconsin. He made his home with them there until 1859, when he returned to Pennsylvania, where he was employed as clerk in a store. After his return from the war he joined his parents, who had come to this county and settled in Red Rock township. His health had been impaired while in the service, and he was not able to do hard work, so for a time he engaged selling fruit trees. In 1873, he went to Winnebago county, Wisconsin, where he was appointed deputy sheriff by his brother. He remained there two and one-half years, then he returned to Mower

county, and settled in Austin, where he has since lived, with the exception of two years spent in Yellow Medicine county, where he had taken a homestead. He was joined in marriage in 1866, to Carrie Louisa Anderson. She was born in York State. They have one son, Fred.

#### MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARDS,

Company G, Second Regiment, was organized during the month of September, 1882, by J. S. Anderson, who was chosen captain. The company numbered fifty men. It was at first a cavalry company, but the year following it became infantry. The first commissioned officers were :

Captain, J. S. Anderson; First Lieutenant, H. W. Elms; Second Lieutenant, F. A. Richards.

When first organized they met at Armory Hall, and next at Jones' Hall. In July, 1884, the company was without regular quarters. The present (1884) officers are: Captain, M. M. Trowbridge; First Lieutenant, L. A. Pierce; Second Lieutenant, J. E. Crews. They now number about forty-five.

#### THE SEWING SOCIETIES.

Mrs. W. W. Brownson said: One can scarcely estimate all that has been accomplished and all we enjoy to-day that has been obtained through the persevering efforts of little bands of ladies in our different churches, known and often spoken of derisively as sewing societies. To them is due the credit of many of the comfortable surroundings of our churches, the result of something very different from gossip. In early times, while men were anxiously planning and toiling to secure

comparatively comfortable homes for their families, and provide houses of worship, their wives and daughters were not idle. They organized sewing societies with good results. The ladies of the Methodist church organized the first one in Austin, May 17, 1865, since which time it has furnished \$1,500 of the money raised by the society for church erection and charitable purposes.

June 12, 1865, the ladies of the Baptist church organized their sewing society and in less than two years it raised and paid \$125 of the expense of the bell to their church edifice and other purposes.

November 8, 1865, the ladies of the Congregational church organized their sewing society, which has contributed about \$2,200 to the charitable and other objects of the church. A Circle of Industry, belonging to the church, has also raised \$550 to apply on the purchase of the bell.

The Busy Bees, a society of children, organized in the fall of 1874, for the purchase of chandeliers for the church, have raised, through public entertainments and fairs, \$40.

In 1868 the ladies' sewing society of the Presbyterian church was organized, but there are no records of its work until 1870, between which time and May, 1873, it raised for church purposes \$330. Since then the sewing society has had no existence.

In 1865 the ladies of the Episcopal church organized their society, which has since had a vigorous existence, but no records have been kept and I am unable to give results.

The Universalist sewing society was organized in 1868, and has earned \$360.

The Universalist Sunday School Gleaners, a society organized in 1875, for the pur-

chase of a Sabbath School library, have raised \$60 toward their object.

The ladies of the Lutheran church, soon after its organization, organized a sewing society which existed about a year and a half. They raised \$75, which was paid toward the debt of the church.

#### THE FATHER MATTHEW SOCIETY.

The response to this sentiment was written by W. I. Brown :

The Father Matthew Temperance Society was organized February 5, 1871, with eighteen charter members. February 19th, they decided to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and appointed a committee to make arrangements. The committee deciding to have a banner, called on the printers, but failed to obtain satisfactory samples for even a temporary article. Mrs. W. I. Brown's proposal to embroider one, with green silk on white merino, was accepted, and work commenced. We were soon out of silk, and sent a sample to St. Paul, but found none there. A few skeins were found in McGregor, but not enough. Luckily, Mrs. Oscar Ayers had enough to complete it. The committee found it necessary to employ all the ladies they could, to get it complete in time, and several ladies present here this evening can testify to how nimbly their fingers wrought on each successive letter until the "Father Matthew Temperance Society of Austin" was complete. At the first annual convention held in St. Paul, February 12, 1872, our society joined the State union with only eight members. The majority of those lost were by resignation and non-payment of dues, and not for violation of pledge, which has been the case up to this time. At the second

convention, our society won the Gold Medal for having gained the greatest per centage of membership, of any society in the State, being 100 per cent. At the third convention, held at Winona, May 6, 1874, we had 75 members, but lost the medal, it being won by Father Ostars society of Belle Blaine. At the fourth convention in Faribault, June 18, 1875, we reported 68 members. We have now 91, with enough names proposed to make even one hundred total abstainers in "The Father Matthew Temperance Society of Austin."

#### THE TEMPERANCE LEAGUES.

Mrs. R. L. Kimball responded. The crusade against whisky began in Austin in the winter of 1856. At that time not a saloon was to be found in the place, but some of our merchants, anxious, no doubt, to supply every want of their customers, went into a general assortment business, and in the back room might have been seen various barrels and kegs, that with propriety might have been labeled *crooked*, judging from the appearance of those patronizing that department. Feeling anxious that our young village might be built upon a good foundation, the women drew up the following resolutions :

"We, the ladies of Austin, feeling that the evil of intemperance, is becoming fearfully great in our village, and knowing that if the poison were not brought here, there would be no temptation placed before our husbands, brothers, and sons, and consequently the evil would be entirely suppressed ; therefore we beg of every man who feels an interest in the prosperity of our town to pledge himself not to sell the accursed drink, that we may have a prosperous village, which will not be a curse to the world ;

*Resolved*, That we will in no way patronize such merchants as will not pledge them-

selves not to deal in intoxicating liquors; that we will in no case, unless compelled to do so by strict necessity, buy any article of such person."

To this agreement thirty-two ladies—at that time all but three of them lady residents of Austin—subscribed their names. Twenty-eight of these names have been preserved, and are as follows: Imogene A. Kimball, Hattie A. Adams, Hannah E. Leverich, Jennett W. Cook, Julia A. Wheat, Triphena Griffith, Lucy L. Wheeler, Bettie M. Vandegrift, Eleanor Bemis, Sarah E. Bemis, Cornelia Benson, Mary Ann H. Decker, Amanda Adams, Elizabeth Brown, Mary McDaniels, Eunice L. Smith, Lois Brown, Martha L. Sanford, Emma Allen, Almeda E. Allen, Mary A. Colwell, Eliza A. Allen, Maria M. Everest, Mary A. Padden, Naomi M. Revord, Harriet Ferris, Eliza A. McKinley, Elizabeth Tubbs.

The merchants were then visited, and the following pledge presented to them for signatures:

"We the undersigned, do solemnly pledge ourselves not to sell or cause to be sold, any ardent or spiritous liquors, except for medicinal or mechanical purposes; that we will neither give the same to any persons, or keep it in any place where persons so disposed can make use of it with or without our knowledge; that we will in no way aid or assist in the traffic of ardent or spirituous liquors."

In case they refused to sign this (and there were two such cases) the ladies resolutions were shown them that they might understand our position. We obtained three signatures, Rufus L. Kimball, W. I. Brown, and Aloysius Brown. In 1857, a Ladies Temperance Society was organized by Mrs. J. L. Davidson,

which was well sustained, and we have reason to believe was the means of doing some good. I am glad to be able to say, that I have always been identified with the temperance work in Austin, and expect while I live to belong to the army fighting against King Alcohol, unless everybody should sign the pledge, or the millennium should dawn."

Mrs. Belle Sherwood then read a chapter of the chronicled events of Austin relating to the temperance cause.

#### ITEMS OF INTEREST.

On the 7th of July, 1864, the Mower County *Register* thus spoke of the trade in Austin:

"Our business men are having lively times. Though war prices reign in merchandise the people will purchase, for all kinds of produce are climbing up among the high figures, and our farmers find themselves quite able to balance accounts with the merchants. Mechanics, too, are finding plenty to do and good pay. Wheat brought \$1.25 per bushel in this market during last week."

On the 1st of January, 1864, the building known as the Lake building, caught fire and burned to the ground. On the morning previous as Dr. Brewer stepped into the photograph gallery above, he was met by a huge volume of smoke which almost suffocated him. He finally succeeded in getting into the room, and found the broom on fire, which set near the pipe that came from the stove below. The fire from the broom had burned a hole in the floor, and was gaining rapidly. The doctor succeeded in putting the fire out, and stayed there something like an hour watching the floor, when he went

out and met A. B. Davidson, the photographer, in Mr. Lewis' store, and remarked to him that there came near being a fire in the gallery that morning. The two, after a few words of conversation, started for the building, when they discovered the whole west end of it in flames. The whole town was aroused, and by almost superhuman efforts the fire was put out. In the evening at about 7 o'clock the fire again broke out, but was immediately extinguished. The next morning about 5 o'clock the building again took fire, and was entirely consumed before help could be obtained to extinguish it. In the lower room was the store of Mr. Keeny. The most of his goods were saved. Up stairs was the photograph gallery of A. B. Davidson and the drug store of Morse, Dailey & Co. All the stock of both firms was entirely consumed. The insurance on the gallery was \$150; on the drug store, \$400.

On Friday, January 27, 1865, a school house situated a few miles south of Austin, on Rose Creek, was consumed by fire, together with most of the school books and furniture. The building was a small log structure, yet comfortable. During the afternoon of the same day some embers remaining from the fire were carried from the spot to Mr. Ames' house, near by, for fuel and placed in the woodshed. It was supposed the fire was all out. In the evening the parents being at a neighbor's visiting, were startled by a cry of fire, the cause of which proved to be their own dwelling. Some of the neighbors succeeded in reaching the spot in season to save some of the household goods from the lower story; but nothing

from the second story was saved. The fire was supposed to have originated from the charred wood.

On the 3d of May, 1865, the residence of Jacob S. Decker, about two miles east of Austin, was destroyed by fire, together with nearly all its contents. The loss reached \$1,000; insurance \$300. The fire originated in the roof.

#### A MELON(COLIC) AFFAIR.

September 10, 1862, the *Courier* said: "Mr. Litchfield, who resides near the village, has been troubled this season by the boys stealing his melons, and wishing to have revenge or put a stop to it, he purchased an emetic and put it into two or three of his finest melons in the patch. The very next morning some four or five who were threshing in the vicinity, were, in the night, taken very sick, vomiting and purging hugely. They all supposed that strichnine or some deadly poison had been taken by them, and their days upon earth were numbered. Their excitement was intense. Some were praying between times of vomiting, and others were crying; all were very confident the year of jubilee had come. The end came, at last, the boys got better. Mr. L. found out who stole his melons; the boys know, or have a strong suspicion, who ate them; and both parties appear to be well satisfied over the affair as it ended."

On the 10th of June, 1863, it is said by the *Courier*: "Horse thieves are getting very numerous in this section of the country, and that portion of Iowa, bordering on Fillmore, Mower and Freeborn counties in particular. We have had calls during the past week from no less than seven persons on the lookout

for horses stolen. Three horses were stolen on Wednesday evening last from C. H. Owen and Daniel Ames, residents of Lyle township. They will give \$100 for the recovery of the horses and the thieves, or \$25 a piece for each horse or thief."

October 20, 1868, the *Democrat* said: "The Austin Academy and Commercial Institute for ladies and gentlemen will open without fail on Monday, October 26, 1868. Those wishing to attend together with all interested in the cause of education, are requested to meet at the rooms of the institute, 3rd story of Hunt & Basford's brick block, corner of Main and Bridge streets, the 24th inst., when classes will be organized and such arrangements made as may be necessary, in order that the regular exercises of the school may commence promptly. A thorough academic course of instruction has been prepared and adapted to those of every age, and of every grade of scholarship. J. H. Johnston, principal."

#### AUSTIN'S DISASTROUS FIRE.

At about 11 o'clock on the night of Wednesday, March 3, 1869, the citizens of Austin were startled by the cry of "fire." There was a strong wind blowing from the north at the time and the thermometer stood 15 or 18 degrees below zero, which tended to prevent the citizens from collecting as soon as would otherwise have been the case. However, quite a number were promptly on the ground, but the fire had got under such headway that it was found impossible to extinguish it with the facilities at hand. In three hours from the time the fire was first discovered four two-story brick buildings on the east side of Main street

were burned to the ground, nothing being left but the demolished walls. The fire was first discovered in the dry goods store of Case & Shepley, the north building of the four, the direction from which the wind was blowing. How the fire originated was a mystery, but it was supposed it caught from the stove. Within a short time a crowd of three or four hundred persons were on the ground and it was decided as impossible to save the brick buildings so the first thing to be done was to save the contents as far as possible and to prevent the fire from spreading. The major part of the dry goods and groceries of Messrs. Solner & Morgan were saved, and a few things from the second story over Paddock Brothers' store. Nearly all the contents of the First National Bank building, consisting of the fixtures belonging to the bank and to the law and land office of Page & Wheeler were saved. The contents of the postoffice and Griffith's book store, also a portion of the dry goods and groceries of Austin & Richardson, and the liquors from the billiard saloon of W. Simpson were removed. The small frame building belonging to J. F. Atherton, and occupied by him as a grocery store, standing next door north of the row of brick buildings was promptly torn down and removed. Soon the fire reached the corner building and it was found necessary to tear away the small frame building occupied as a meat market to prevent the spread of the fire to the east along Bridge street. This was promptly done and the fire was confined to the brick structures. At the time the entire loss was estimated at from \$40,000 to \$50,000.

The following is a list of losses as published at the time of the conflagration:

J. F. Atherton, one brick building and a small frame, household goods and part stock of groceries. Insurance, \$2,200.

Case & Shepley, stock of dry goods and groceries, books, papers, etc. Insurance, \$4,000.

Creditors of Paddock Brothers, stock of dry goods and groceries.

Solner & Morgan, part of stock of dry goods and groceries. Insurance, \$5,000.

First National Bank, brick building, counters, etc. Insurance, \$2,000.

Barnes & Baird, brick building. Insurance, \$2,000.

Lewis & Roberts, brick building. Insurance, \$2,000.

Dr. E. C. Dorr, dental tools and machinery, books, papers, etc.

Dr. E. P. Hudson, dental tools, etc.

Page & Wheeler, furniture, a few books, papers, etc.

A Galloway, frame building.

Frederich & Sammons, a few tools, meat, etc.

Mrs. Marshall and Miss Nerton, dress makers, sustained some loss.

J. Woodward and Mr. Carter lost their household goods.

Dr. Barnes sustained some loss in his office.

Austin & Richardson, W. Simpson. R. Griffith and Postmaster Phelps all sustained some loss by the removal of goods.

In the issue of July 13, 1869, the *Austin Democrat* contains the following account of a child lost for three days: "A boy eight years of age named John Guinney, son of

Daniel Guinney, living about three miles east of Austin, wandered from home on Wednesday forenoon last, and remained in the brush until Saturday afternoon. Shortly after the lad was found to be missing the family commenced searching and inquiring for him. On Thursday the neighborhood turned out in considerable force, and the search was continued. No trace of him could be found on Thursday, and the alarm for his safety increased. The alarm was spread wider among the neighbors and reached town on Friday, when the search was renewed and kept up throughout the day, but still no trace of the child was found. On Saturday morning painful rumors were afloat that the child was probably drowned, and most certainly dead wherever he might be. Notwithstanding the disheartening influences of the unsuccessful search of Thursday and Friday, a large force started to continue the search, and the country was scoured in nearly every direction. At noon the search was about to be given up, and most of the parties returned to their homes. However, Mayor Austin and Mr. J. Kiser, concluded to remain during the afternoon and continue the search. Starting out in the direction in which the child was last seen, they soon discovered footprints near a small stream which he had undoubtedly made in crossing. Following this slight clue, and greatly encouraged, they passed on some forty rods farther in that direction than any one had yet been, and there found the boy lying in the grass, where he had in all probability been during the entire three days since his disappearance. He was considerably reduced, but was still able to walk."

In June, 1869, complaint was made to Sheriff Mollison, by a gentleman from the rural districts, to the effect that a woman had stolen a horse from him, and giving a description of the woman and horse. It seems that before the woman had got a great distance from the starting place, the horse escaped and came to town. The gentleman recovered his horse, and the thief was heard from, being in the country, about three miles distant. The Sheriff desired to let the woman come to town and claim the horse before arresting her, but was urged on until he proceeded into the country with papers and brought the woman to town and to trial. It seems that she "smelt a mice" and concluded that her's was a "horse of another color." She swore that she had never seen the horse, which was alleged to have been stolen, and there being no proof, the horse not being found in her possession, she was discharged. The authorities came to the conclusion that it took a sharp man to trap a woman.

On Sunday, June 26, 1870, William Simpson was drowned in the Cedar river at Austin, just back of his residence, near the foot of St. Paul street. It appeared that at about 11 o'clock in the morning he went to the river for a bath, as soap and towels were found upon the banks. At this point the water was very shallow for a distance of fifteen or twenty feet, when it suddenly breaks off into a very deep hole. It was supposed that he was wading out into the stream and stepping into the deep water strangled before he could gain control of himself. Mr. Simpson was a Scotchman by birth. He first came to Minnesota in 1854 and settled in Houston county. In the spring of 1856;

he came to Austin and commenced business. By strict attention to business he amassed a good share of worldly goods, and left a family, consisting of a wife and three children, well provided for.

On the 22d of September, 1868, Henry Hyer, a boy about twelve years of age, was accidentally killed near the depot. The boy attempted to jump upon a hand car, when in motion, and the lever struck him on the head, crushing in his skull and killing him almost instantly.

In its issue of December, 1, 1868, the *Democrat* contained the following item: "Three native Americans—no carpet-baggers—stopped at the Central House in this place last night. Two of them were chiefs of the Menominee nation, one of which killed five Sioux Indians in the war of '62-63, fighting on the side of the whites. He has five marks made in India ink upon his arm to 'designate the fact.' The tribe lives upon the Black river, in Wisconsin. These chaps have been out west trapping, and are now returning to their tribe. They are very large, robust men, capable of taking care of a large amount of rations."

#### IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

The Austin *Democrat*, February 23, 1869, states that "genuine stone coal has been found in Mower county." In that issue appears the following article: "Thomas Smith, of Windom township, in this county, has left with us a very fair sample of stone coal, and informs us that he has taken from the mine which he is now prospecting, some lumps as good as any ever taken from a Pennsylvania coal field. Mr. Smith is something of a geologist, and had discovered signs of coal on

his place, in the bluff along Rose Creek, some time since, and a few days ago, determined to investigate the matter, and prospect for a large deposit, which he had reason to believe existed in the vicinity. He employed an experienced miner and the two went to work, tunneling into the bluff, and the present indications are that a rich bed of coal will soon be discovered. Two or three weeks more will tell the story. The importance which would attend the discovery of an extensive bed of coal in Windom, lying as it does in the center of a large prairie country, could not be overestimated. \* \*

On the 1st of April, 1870, Carl Chanbery, a young man who, the previous spring, had come with his aged mother from Sweden, and settled in Austin, was drowned in Cedar river.

On Sunday afternoon, July 17, 1870, David Caswell, a prominent citizen of Le Roy, left his residence for the purpose of looking at some grass land nearly a quarter of a mile distant on the farm, and as was sometimes his custom, took with him a double-barreled shot gun. Upon his departure the family requested him to return soon as dinner was nearly ready. Failing to return the family became alarmed and commenced a search for him about 4 o'clock, which was continued until about 11 o'clock at night, when the body was found cold and stiff in death, about three-eighths of a mile from the house, with a shot gun wound in the left side, with every indication that the gun had gone off while he was in the act of loading it. A coroner's inquest was held, at which the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the facts as stated.

On the 14th of August, 1870, a Norwegian named Jens Jenson, about 54 years of age, who lived a short distance from Adams station, committed suicide. On the afternoon of the day mentioned he went to a grove of small trees near his residence. When near the grove he met some of his children playing, whom he sent to the house, and then selected a tree four or five inches through, and bent a limb some seven feet from the ground in the shape of a bow, fastening the the small end to the tree. He then fastened a rope to that with a noose around his neck, then dropped upon his knees and in that position he strangled to death. When found both knees were resting upon the ground. The deceased left a wife and several children. It was supposed that family trouble was the cause of the rash act.

One of the local papers gives the following account of a serious accident, which befell Daniel J. Tubbs, contractor and builder of Austin, in September, 1870: "The circumstances as we learn them are about as follows: The brick work of the school house was very nearly completed; the floors had not yet been laid, but the joist being nearly all in, loose boards were thrown upon them to walk around on. Mr. Tubbs was performing some work on the third floor just after noon, when he stepped upon an unsteady scantling, which threw him backward,—he happened to fall on a spot where there were one or two joist missing." He fell to the landing in the entry or main hall of the building, a distance of some 22 feet; here he struck some joist which partly broke his fall, but he went on through to the first floor, a distance of 32 or 33 feet, before he stopped.

He was picked up and carried out by his fellow workmen, who supposed he was dead. Physicians were sent for, and he was removed to his home in the south part of town. His main injury is about the chest and shoulder, and three ribs are broken." Mr. Tubbs in time fully recovered.

On the 21st of September, 1870, John Fredell, a Swede, 23 years of age, was drowned in the Cedar river. The young man had come from Minneapolis about three weeks before his death and had been in the employ of the railroad company. He had shown unmistakable signs of insanity.

On Monday, February, 13, 1871, at between 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning, the warehouse of Gunz & Anderson, at Brownsdale, was discovered to be on fire. The alarm was immediately given, but the fire had made such progress, that it was impossible to quench it. The flames soon reached the warehouse of Mr. Rowell, and the building was entirely destroyed. The warehouse of Gunz & Anderson contained 6,000 bushels of wheat, 3,300 bushels of flax seed, 1,000 pounds of tow, about 1,000 grain sacks, a fanning mill, and the articles usually kept about a grain warehouse. Nothing at all was saved and their loss was about \$13,000, which, however, was fully covered by insurance. Mr. Rowell's warehouse was empty at the time. The total loss on both was about \$15,000.

On Monday, February 20, 1871, Austin was visited by a disastrous fire. At about one o'clock the Fleck House was discovered to be on fire, and the flames spread so rapidly that it was impossible to save the building. By hard work the greater portion of

the furniture was taken out. There were about 60 persons in the house at the time, and all succeeded in making their escape. The property was valued at \$9,000, including the grounds, and was insured for \$3,500. The hotel at the time was under the management of George Hay, who had leased it and taken possession about ten days previous to the time of the fire. The fire caught from a defective flue.

On the 19th of May, 1871, a fatal accident occurred at the depot of the C. M. & St. P. R. R. in Austin, resulting in the death of William Walsh. The coroner summoned a jury on the day following the accident and an inquest was held at which the following particulars of the sad affair were developed. On Friday night, at 10:15 o'clock, after the freight train going north had passed, a switch engine backed down toward the main track, and the engineer feeling some obstruction looked for the cause, and found the body of a man frightfully mangled upon the track. The head was completely smashed, and the body cut entirely in two at the abdomen. The evidence showed that the man, intoxicated at the time, had fallen upon the track, and being so stupefied by the liquor he had drank was unable to rise, and was run over by the engine. The name of the deceased was William Walsh, a day laborer in the employ of the company at Lansing. He had a wife and five children living at Fox Lake, Wisconsin.

#### BURGLAR CAUGHT!

The Austin *Register* in its issue of September 2, 1875, gives the following account of how a burglar was captured in that city: "Last Sunday night, about one o'clock, Mr.

Aurrin Cox, who lives on Bridge street, one door east of Bates' wagon shop, was awakened by some noise about his premises. He at once arose and took his revolver in his hand and quietly commenced looking through his rooms. For a time he could hear nothing. His attention was, however, soon after called to an unusual rustle of a curtain that hung before a window in an adjoining room. At first Mr. Cox thought the rustle of the curtain was caused by the wind, it being very dark and objects indistinct. But the outline of a man discovered behind the curtain solved the mystery. It seems the burglar who had raised the window, discovered Mr. Cox about the same time that Cox had discovered him, and slid through that window about as quick as a streak of greased lightning, and well he did, for no sooner had the rascal been seen by Mr. Cox than he drew a bead on him with his revolver and sent three balls crashing through the glass after him, and then followed himself, in his night clothes, to the corner of Bates' wagon shop, where he lost sight of the burglar. Here he called for help to officer Tom Riley, who was immediately on the spot, and together with officer Benson, put upon the track. Mr. Cox returned to the house and found that the burglar had taken his pants from beside his bed, carried them to an adjoining room, took his jack knife out of one of the pockets and stuck it under the window where he first saw the thief. The thief got no money, as Mr. Cox had taken his pocket book out before retiring, and placed it under his pillow. The inmates of the house were quickly aroused by the firing, and as a matter of course up and dressed for any emer-

gency. Officer Riley after "taking in the situation, concluded the thief was secreted in the shrubbery in the rear of the Central house, and accordingly hid himself to await further developments. After remaining near the Central house barn a short time he whistled, when two men came out from between the hotel and barn and came toward him, thinking, no doubt, he was one of their comrades, but when they found their mistake took to their heels. Tom followed one of them and insisted on his stopping, by an occasional shot from his pistol, which only had the effect to cause the thief to roll over and over, and then regain his feet and run the faster. He was so closely pursued, however, that he finally ran up on the stoop of a dwelling house near Bridge street bridge, threw up his hands and surrendered. His vest pocket was pretty well supplied with matches. His clothes were found the next morning in the yard of Mr. Cox, where the thief had probably left them before entering the house. The following Monday, the prisoner, who gave his name as John Flynn, was brought before Justice Griffith and bound over in the sum of \$600 to appear at the next term of District Court, and failing to furnish bail, he went to jail. He can now have a chance to show whether he is as good at breaking out of jail, as he was in breaking into houses." This prophesy proved true enough, for in the next issue the *Register* said: "Three prisoners escaped from the Mower county jail Wednesday night, and among the number was John Flynn, the burglar. A hole was cut through the iron casing of the cell, and then through the brick wall, through which the prisoners escaped.

It is evident help was had from without. It is stated that eight crawled out through the same hole, but five went back, when they got a sniff of fresh air, which they didn't relish, as one said it made him sick. The smoothness with which the iron casing was cut, shows that some tool was used of more than ordinary capacity."

On Monday evening, December 27, 1875, the iron foundry belonging to Geo. B. Wright, located on the east side was burned to the ground. The cause of the fire was unknown. The building and contents were a total loss of about \$10,000. There was no insurance on either building or machinery. Only the Saturday before, Mr. Wright was inquiring about rates of insurance on the foundry, but thinking the rates too high, concluded to postpone insuring for a time. The hook and ladder boys with their apparatus were on the ground and did what they could to save the property, but it was impossible. The foundry was the only one in the city, and its loss not only fell heavily

upon its owners but upon the business interests of Austin as well.

On the morning of December 30, 1873, the building on the corner of Chatham and Mill streets, occupied by the store of the Farmers and Mechanics Grocery Association, was burned to the ground. A portion of the goods were removed. There was an insurance on the stock of \$2,000.

#### FATAL ACCIDENT.

On the 22d of April, 1873, Ole Gordon, of Northwood, Iowa, was instantly killed while grinding plows in the shop of Seymour Johnson, in Austin, by the bursting of the revolving stone. One fragment weighing nearly 500 pounds, struck the unfortunate man in the forehead, at the corner of the right eye, and carried away a large portion of his skull and scattered his brains over the entire room. It passed through one end of the building and struck in the street some sixty feet distant. The stone was entirely new and, as far as could then be discovered, perfectly sound. It was driven by horse power, and at no more than the usual speed.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

## ADAMS TOWNSHIP.

The town of Adams embraces Congressional Town No. 101, north of range 16 west of the fifth principal meridian, and is bounded on the north by the town of Marshall, east by Lodi, south by Mitchell county, Iowa, and west by Nevada township.

The surface of the town is quite undulating, the soil being of a dark, rich loam, with a clay subsoil. The soil is very productive, and grows all kinds of grain, vegetables and grasses.

The township is well watered and drained by the Little Cedar river and its tributaries. The main branch enters the town in section 12, running in a westerly course through sections 11, 10, to the center of section 9, where it bears south and passes through sections 16, 21, 28, and leaves the town in section 33. One of its branches enters the town from the town of Marshall, in section 4, passes in a southerly direction, making a confluence with the main branch in section 9. Another branch also enters the town

from Marshall in section 2, and forms a junction with the main branch in section 11.

## TIMBER.

When the township was settled timber was found along the streams, considerable of which was used by the settlers in building their log cabins. The township is still well provided with timber.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first to settle in Adams township was Thomas Knudtson. He came in June, 1835. He settled on his claim, which consisted of the south half of the northwest, and the north half of the southwest quarter of section 2. He there erected the first house in the town. It was built of logs, 18x18, and eight feet high, covered with hay and prairie sod, with puncheon floor. The next year he put on a shingled roof. He lived in this house about seven years, when he built another log house 16x18, 12 feet high. He lived in that house about nine years, when he disposed of his farm and moved to

section 35, in Marshall township, where he still lives.

In July, 1855, Reynold Olson, John D. Olson, J. H. Johnson, Stephen Olson, Ole Johnson and Stephen Christianson, natives of Norway, came together from Dane county, Wisconsin.

R. and J. D. Olson settled in section 12, where they still live. J. H. Johnson settled in Clayton township, but later came to the township and settled in section 2. Ole Johnson settled in the northeast quarter of section 12, where he still resides. Christianson and S. Olson made their home with R. and J. D. Olson. They were frozen to death in December of that year, an account of which will be found elsewhere.

Among the settlers of 1856, were John Leisenfelt, Peter Leisenfelt, Michael Bowland. John Q. Olson settled in section 12, where he lived until 1884, when he went to Dakota.

Those that came later, are John Heimer, Mathias Cary, John Webber, Patrick M. Rooney, William Madden, M. Krebsbach, C. Krebsbach, Michael Smith.

John Heimer settled on the southeast of section 32, where he still lives. John Webber settled in section 32, in 1857. He still lives in the township. Nels Rierison, from Norway, settled in section 16, where he lived until 1860, when he left his improvements and moved to LeRoy township, where he improved a farm upon which he lived until his death in 1883. His wife still lives on the homestead. Rasmus Rasmusson also came in 1857, and settled in section 4, where he lived a few years, then moved to Clayton,

and to Marshall township, where he still lives.

Rognold Olson, was one of the first settlers of Adams. He was born in Norway, in 1833. He remained with his parents until 1845, when he started for America, landing at New York after a voyage of six weeks. He left New York directly for Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he bought one horse and a wagon, and started for Dane county, where he remained until 1855, when he came to Mower county and settled in section 12 in Adams township. He lived with his brother two years and then erected a house on his own claim. It was built of logs and covered with shakes. In the fall he covered it with sod to keep out the cold, and procured ash lumber for the floor at LeRoy. He lived in this house seven or eight years then he built another log house about forty rods north of the first one, where he now lives. He is a single man and devotes his time in raising grain. He has been prominent in town affairs, having been a member of the township board of supervisors. Mr. Olson has 183 acres of land, and it is well supplied with timber and water.

John D. Olson was one of the early settlers of Mower county. He was born in Norway in December 1836, where he remained until 1845, when he came to the United States, landing at New York. He went West to Dane county, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1855. He then started for Mower county, Minnesota, making the trip with ox teams, camping by the way. He settled in section 12, in Adams township, where he still lives. Mr. Olson was married to Miss Ida Johnson, May 28,



*Matthias Threlbach*

1866. They are parents of five children, Nettie, Steffina, Bertha, Emma, Charles. Mr. Olson is engaged in agricultural pursuits, his farm containing 170 acres, sixty of which, is under cultivation. He is engaged in grain and stock raising.

William Madden is one of the pioneers of Adams township, where he settled in 1856. He came with ox teams from Illinois, camping out on the way; he arrived in July and pre-empted the northeast quarter of section 22. His first work was to build a place to live in; this he did by digging a hole in the ground, covering it with poles and hay. They lived here about one year, when they built a log house, in which they lived until 1876, when he built a good frame house, in which he lived until April 26, 1884, when it was burned. He now lives in a house belonging to Patrick Gilligan. Mr. Madden was born in Ireland, August 1, 1819. He attended school in his younger days, assisting his father on the farm. He left the land of his birth for the United States in March, 1841, arriving at New York City after a voyage of eight weeks. Mr. Madden remained in the east, engaged at different avocations in New York and Vermont, until he came to Illinois, where he remained until 1856, when he came to Mower county, as above stated. He was married to Bridget Larkin November 7, 1841. She is a native of Ireland, born in 1823. Eight children are the fruits of this marriage, viz.: John, Mary, Elizabeth, Catherine, Ellen, Thomas, Margaret, Josephine.

Mr. Madden has a farm of 160 acres under a good state of cultivation, and is engaged in grain and stock. Mr. Madden was

elected the first Justice of the Peace of his township. He has also held the office of clerk and school district treasurer. Mr. Madden has the honor of naming the town after "a Mr. Adams," an old friend in New York State.

Thomas Madden, the youngest son of William and Bridget Madden, was born November 9, 1853. He lived at home until he was twenty-four years of age, when he bought a farm in section 23. He built a good frame house in 1877, which he still occupies. He is engaged in raising stock and grain. Mr. Madden married Miss Catherine Gilboy, November 17, 1877. She is a native of Iowa, born in 1857. They are the parents of three children, Charles, Thomas, Mary Ellen. Mr. Madden and family are members of St. John's Catholic Church of Adams' village. In politics he is a Democrat.

Henry Heimer was born in Germany, in 1852. He came to America with his parents in 1855. They landed at New York, and went directly to Illinois, where they remained eighteen months, and in 1856 came to Mower county, and settled in the town of Adams, in section 32. He erected a good frame house in 1874, which he still occupies. Mr. Heimer has been twice married, first to Miss Anna Smith, in February, 1876. By this marriage he has two children, Catherine and Frank. Mrs. Heimer died in December, 1880. Mr. Heimer married Miss Elizabeth Lacker, February, 8, 1882. By this marriage they have one child, John. Mr. Heimer's farm contains 100 acres, most of which is under cultivation. Mr. Heimer is at the present time a member of the township board of supervisors.

Simon Knutson was born in Norway, in 1828. He lived with his parents until 1855, when he emigrated to America. His first settlement was in Wisconsin, where he lived one year, then came to the town of Adams, and settled in section 10; three or four years later he moved to section five. He now owns two hundred and forty acres, and is engaged in raising grain and stock. He was married in 1864, to Anna Simonson, also a native of Norway, who came to America in 1860. They are the parents of ten children, as follows: Lars, Knudt, Jacob, Astel, Simonson, Michael, Benjamin, Mary, Louis, Rosa.

Mathias Smith came to Mower county, in 1857, at which time he settled in section 20, in the town of Adams. He first built a log house, which he covered with shakes, with puncheon floor. The family occupied that house about nine years, then built a more commodious log house, which they occupied about fifteen years, then erected a good frame house. He is a native of Germany, born in the year 1819. He emigrated to America in 1857, landing at New York, after a voyage of forty-two days. He spent three months in McHenry county, Illinois, before coming to Adams. He was married in 1851, to Mary Bantus. She was born in Germany, in 1829. Mr. Smith now owns four hundred and forty acres of land, one half of which is improved.

Peter Krebsbach came to Adams township, in 1857, and settled on the northwest quarter of section 32. He built a log house which he covered with shakes; thirteen years later he built a good frame house, and has since built a frame barn. His farm contains

230 acres of land, two-thirds of which is under cultivation. He was born in Germany where his younger days were spent in school and on the farm. In 1866, he emigrated to America, and spent eight months in Illinois. He was joined in marriage in February 1874, to Catherine King. She was born in Germany; came to America in company with her parents in 1873. Mr. and Mrs. Krebsbach are the parents of five children, named Anna, Mary, Mathias, Joseph, Lizzie.

Michael Krebsbach is an early settler of Mower county. He came from Illinois, arriving April 12, 1856. He came by rail to McGregor, from there on foot, with only \$3 in his pocket, to Adams township. He took a claim in section 20, and built a log house, which he covered with shingles of his own make. Mr. Krebsbach was born in Germany April 22d, 1835. When young he attended school and made himself useful on his father's farm. In 1855 he came to the United States, landing at New York in July, after a voyage of forty-two days, after which he set out for the far west with only \$8 in his pocket. His first stop was in McHenry county, Illinois, where he remained two months, after which he went to Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, where he found employment on a farm, remaining three months, when he returned to Illinois, and in 1857 came to Mower county, as stated above. He commenced work on his new house May 4, and all of his worldly goods consisted of a \$4 indebtedness.

Mr. Krebsbach was married in September, 1858, to Miss Susan Bondis, a native of Germany. She emigrated to America in 1856. Their children are Michle, born

January 6, 1860; John, January 29, 1861; Gertrude, August 27, 1863; Anna, February 20, 1865; Joseph, April 20, 1869; Mary, September 2, 1876.

Mr. Krebsbach raised his first crop of wheat in the season of 1860, which he hauled with ox teams to McGregor, Iowa, then the nearest market, selling his wheat for barely enough to pay expenses.

Mr. Krebsbach has, by hard work and industry since coming here, accumulated a large property. He, together with his sons, own and work 1,800 acres of land. They also run a large creamery in the village of Adams, in which is made 450 pounds of butter per day. Mr. Krebsbach is also senior member of the firm of Krebsbach & Co., of Adams village.

Although Mr. Krebsbach was not a soldier he was the first in his township to pay \$300 for a substitute.

Mr. Krebsbach is a resident of the village of Adams. He and his family are members of the Catholic church of Adams village, of which he was one of the first trustees.

Mathias Carey, one of the early settlers of Mower county, came in July, 1857, and settled on the southeast quarter of section 20. He there erected a small house and lived in it fourteen years; he then built a large frame house which he now occupies. He has prospered as a farmer in raising grain and stock. He has 320 acres, of which three-fourths is under cultivation. Mr. Carey was born in Germany in 1825. He attended school and assisted his parents on the farm until he was 22 years of age. He married Miss Anna Huston in 1851. She is a native of Germany, where she was born in 1831.

Mr. Carey left his native country with his family in 1853, and landed at New York after a voyage of seven weeks. He left immediately for Illinois and located in McHenry county, remained three years, when he came to Mower county, and settled in Adams township, where he says he is going to stay the balance of his days. He has been prominent in town affairs, has held the office of supervisor and overseer of the public highway. He has nine children, John H., Hubbard, Catherine, Nicholas, Mary, Johnney J., Anthony, Joseph, Jacob.

Gullick Olson left Norway, his native country, with his parents in April 1857, landing at Quebec, after a voyage of five weeks. They immediately started for the far west, stopping for a short time at Decorah, Iowa, after which they came to Mower county, arriving in Adams township in July. They settled in section 2, where the father erected a log shanty, 10x10, over which, hay covered with sod, formed the roof, with the ground for a floor. After living in this house three years, a good log house 14x16, was built in which he lived twelve years. He then moved the house into section 1, where he still lives. Gullick—of whom we write—enlisted January 18, 1862, in Company I, 15th Wisconsin Infantry, Volunteers. After serving ten months Mr. Olson was discharged by reason of disability, contracted in the army, for which he draws a pension of six dollars per month. On receiving his discharge he returned to his home in Adams township, where he has since lived. Mr. Olson is engaged in farming, in connection with which, he sells agricultural implements, of which he represents the best. Mr.

Olson was married in 1871, to Miss Ingeborg Anderson Numbdall. She was born in Norway. Came to the United States with her parents, in 1864. They have six children, Olai, Anna, Andrew, Emma, Theodore, Bertinia. Anna, the eldest child, was unfortunate in being born deaf and dumb. She has been attending the deaf and dumb school at Faribault. It is the intention of Mr. Olson that his daughter shall remain at this school during eight years, the time required to graduate. Mr. Olson is quite prominent in township affairs; has been a member of his township board, of which he is and has been, chairman four years.

John H. Johnson, a native of Norway, was raised on his father's farm, receiving a common school education. When eighteen years of age he was employed in teaching school, which profession he followed two years. In 1847 he came to the United States. After landing at New York, he went to Milwaukee, and to Dane county, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1855, when he came to Mower county, and settled in section 31, in Clayton township, where he remained until 1867, when he removed to section 2, in Adams township, where he still lives. Mr. Johnson was married February 17, 1866, to Miss Celia Gulickson. She was born in Norway, and came to the United States with her parents in 1857. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have had ten children, five of whom are living, viz: Bertha, Oida, Nettie, Martin, Lena. Mr. Johnson is one of the prosperous farmers of the township. His farm contains 187 acres, 100 of which are under a good state of cultivation. He is engaged in grain and stock raising. Mr. John-

son takes an active interest in township affairs; has been chairman of the board of supervisors, and is at the present time township treasurer.

Mathias S. Heimer was born in section 17, in the town of Adams, March 29, 1858. He attended school and assisted his father on the farm until he was 18 years of age. He then commenced to learn the carpenter's trade, which he finished in three years. He worked at his trade until he was married, when his father, Stephen Heimer, gave him a farm of 120 acres, which he worked two years, when he rented and moved to the village of Adams, and bought the saloon, restaurant and billiard hall of John Carey, and commenced business on the 27th day of January, 1883. Mr. Heimer still continues in the trade. He was married to Miss Catherine Meuren May 20, 1880. She was born in Germany, March 13, 1860, and came to America with her parents October 27, 1871. Mr. and Mrs. Heimer are the parents of two children, Anna and John. Mr. Heimer is doing a good business, still owns and rents his farm. He also handles machinery of all kinds. Mr. Heimer owns 320 acres of land in Potter and Falk counties, Dakota. He is a musician, and is a member of the Heimer and Webber band.

Patrick Gilligan was born in Ireland in August, 1822. He came to the United States in 1849, leaving his home March 3d, landing at New York after a voyage of four and a half weeks. He at once went to New Jersey, where he hired out on a farm, remaining eight years, after which he went to New York State, remaining about a year, when he came to Mower county and settled

in section 16 in Adams township, on which he built a log cabin, covered with hay. After living in this building two years he built a more commodious house, in which he lived eighteen years, when he purchased the southwest quarter of section 15, and erected a large frame house, in which he has since lived.

Mr. Gilligan is extensively engaged in raising stock, for which he is well provided with barns and outbuildings. His farm contains 360 acres.

Mr. Gilligan was married in January, 1844, to Mary Hart, a native of Ireland. Their children are John, Mary, Charles.

Lawrence Rooney came to Adams in 1858, and settled on the southwest quarter of section 22. He erected a small log cabin which he covered with hay; the Christmas following, the cabin was burned. He then dug a cellar, which he covered with hay and lived there until spring, when he built a good log house 16x20, 12 feet high, which he occupied until 1884, when he built a substantial frame house, which he now occupies. He was born in Ireland, in 1822. His youthful days were spent on the farm and at school. In 1849, he emigrated to America, and lived in New York State and Iowa, until coming to Mower county. He was married in 1855, to Margaret Rooney, a native of Ireland. She came to America in 1852, and lived in Watertown, New York, at the time of her marriage.

Thomas Rooney came to Adams in 1858, and settled on section 16, erected a log cabin and lived there about 18 years, when he bought the north half of the northwest quarter of section twenty-eight. He has since

built a good frame house, purchased other land, and now owns 240 acres, all of which is improved. He was born in Ireland, in 1828. In his youthful days he attended school and worked with his father on the farm. When he was 24 years of age, he went to Scotland, where he was employed as helper in a machine shop two years. He then returned to Ireland and visited friends a few days. He sailed from the port of Sligo, the 3rd of May, 1854, landed at Quebec 44 days later. He went via Montreal to Watertown, York State, and engaged in farming two years. In the fall of 1856 he went to Dubuque, Iowa, where he spent the winter, then went to Springfield, Illinois, where he remained until 1858. He was married April 4, 1857, to Mary Patton, also a native of Ireland. They have two children, named John and Mary.

Patrick M. Rooney settled in Adams township in section 33, in November, 1859. He built a log house, covered with shakes, with basswood boards for a floor. After living in this house about fifteen years he built a good substantial frame house, in which he still lives.

Mr. Rooney was born in Ireland February 23, 1824. He received a good common school education in his native country, where he lived with his parents until 1851, when he emigrated to the United States, landing at New York March 2d. From there he immediately went to New Jersey, where he found employment on a farm until June, when he went to Jefferson county, New York, where he worked as a farm hand five years, after which he went to Chicago, Illinois. After working a few months in a lum-

ber yard, was employed in constructing the first "cattle yards" on the ground now occupied by "Lincoln Park," after which he worked on a farm at Geneva three years, when he started west with one pair of steers and a cow, by the way of Dubuque, where he stopped two months, when he started for Mower county, arriving with his steers and cow November 6th, with but \$5 in his pocket. He thought, to use his own expression, "that it was a pretty tough country for one nearly busted."

Mr. Rooney had the honor of teaching the first school in Adams township, after which he taught several terms.

He raised his first crop of wheat in 1860, which yielded about twenty bushels per acre. Mr. Rooney hauled what wheat he had to spare with oxen to McGregor, Iowa, selling it for 45 cents per bushel. He camped out and was ten days making the trip.

Mr. Rooney was married at Chicago, in 1856, to Miss Margaret McGravy. She is a native of Ireland and came to the United States in 1852.

Mr. and Mrs. Rooney have had three children born to them, viz.: Mary, Winefred, Elen.

Mr. Rooney is a member of the Catholic church; is also prominent in township affairs, having held the office of town clerk, assessor, justice of the peace and chairman of the township board of supervisors.

The settlers of a later date are :

John C. Johnson came to Mower county June 22, 1861, and settled on the west half of the southeast quarter of section 8, in Adams township, erected a good log house in

which he still lives. He has a good farm of eighty acres, and is engaged in raising grain and stock. He was born in Norway, January 1, 1824, came to America in June, 1861. He landed at Montreal, from where he came to Mower county. He was married to Mary Allick in May, 1847. She is a native of Norway, by whom he has had nine children, Ida, Carrie, John R., Allick, John C., Jr., Edd, Nels, Mary, Bell. Mr. Johnson has held the office of school treasurer, clerk and director in district No. 7, each of which offices he has held two years.

F. Gerhart came to Mower county in 1861, and bought the west half of the northwest quarter of section 30. He erected a small frame house in which he lived twelve years. In 1879 he built a more commodious frame house near the site of the old one in which he still lives.

Mr. Gerhart has 360 acres of fine land. All except seventy acres is under cultivation. He raises a large amount of grain and stock. He was born in Germany, in 1846, attended school and assisted his parents on their farm until he came to America in 1857. He landed at New York after a voyage of thirty days. He first went to New Jersey, where he remained a short time, when he went to Illinois, where he rented a farm, which he worked four years. In 1861 he came to Mower county, as mentioned above. He was married to Miss Helen Smith March 27, 1869. She is a native of Germany, born in 1851, came to this country with her parents in 1854. Mr. and Mrs. Gerhart are the parents of eight children, Louis, Eddie, Freddie, Willie, Lizzie, Sarah, Oliver and Aloysius. Mr. Gerhart's wife died in 1883.

He married Christiana Webber for his second wife, May 1, 1884. He has been prominent in town affairs, has held the office of supervisor four years, and has been chairman of the Board of Supervisor four years and assessor two years.

Phillip Baldner came to Mower county in 1866, and purchased 80 acres of land in section 30, formerly owned by Rev. Hildebrand, and moved into the house formerly occupied by his family. In 1870 he built the house which he now occupies, a commodious frame building. His farm now contains 280 acres, all improved. He was born in Germany, February 2, 1829. Emigrated to America in 1854. He landed at New York, where he spent eight months, then went to Bureau county, Illinois, where he rented a farm and lived in that county until 1866. He was married October 29, 1854, to Margaret Webber. She was born in Germany, June 30, 1832. Ten children blessed the union, named Louis, Maggie, Philip, Barbara, David, Elizabeth, John, Frederick, Mary, Willis.

Hans J. Hanson came to Mower county in the fall of 1867. In 1869 he bought the northeast quarter of section 19. He then built a small frame house where he lived a short time. In 1868 he went to Austin and commenced work for W. J. Brown, and worked at his trade of blacksmith eighteen months. While at work here he ironed the wagon which took the first premium at the first county fair held in Mower county. He was married December 27th, 1869, to Miss Emma Peterson. Mr. Hanson is a native of Norway, born August 30th, 1846; came to America in August, 1864. Landing at Quebec, he started for the West by way

of Chicago, came to McGregor, and then walked to Calmer and back to McGregor, sleeping one night in a straw stack. He then hired a team to take him back to Calmer, where he remained one year. He then went to Chicago, where he remained two months. He then went to Foster's Mills on the Black River, across from Muskegon, Michigan, where he hired out for \$30 a month, he remained there two months, when he returned to Chicago and went to work in the Union Wagon Works where he remained two years, when he came to Mower county. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson have six children, Minnie, Oscar, Katinca, Peter, Herman, George. Mr. Hanson has been quite prominent in township affairs, having held the office of chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and is now Justice of the Peace; he is also superintendent of the Sabbath school.

W. H. Cavanaugh was born in Illinois in 1854, where he lived until 1857, when he went to Mitchell county, Iowa, remaining until 1870, when he came to Mower county and located at LeRoy and engaged in selling machinery, which business he followed about three years, when he went to the village of Adams, where he was employed in a warehouse during that winter. About this time his father died, when he took charge of the farm, which he ran two years. After which he worked out on neighboring farms, running a threshing machine in the fall, after which he entered the employ of A. Bertram, as clerk in his store, remaining with him two years, when he engaged in the retail liquor trade for himself, which business he still follows.

Mr. Cavanaugh married Miss Julia Mul-

hearn. She was born in Illinois in 1864. They have one child, Mary Teresa.

Mr. Cavanaugh is also engaged in selling agricultural machinery with good success.

Albert D. Harris came to Mower county in 1873. He was located at Austin until 1874. He then went to LeRoy, where he was employed as telegraph operator, remaining until October 25, 1877, when he was transferred to the village of Adams as agent of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company. He was appointed deputy postmaster of the Adams postoffice, which office he held one year. He then engaged in the mercantile trade, which business he still follows. He was appointed postmaster May 14, 1880, which office he still holds. He also holds the office of town clerk. He is still in the employ of the railway company as telegraph operator, express and depot agent.

Mr. Harris was born in Wisconsin May 30, 185-. After attending the common schools, went to Prairie du Chien, where he finished his studies at St. John's College in 1873.

Mr. Harris was united in marriage with Miss Ida C. Hildebrand May 16, 1882. She was born in Mower county November 15, 1863. They are parents of one child, born February 11, 1883.

Mathias Schaefer, is a native of Germany. Was reared on his father's farm, and received a common school education. He emigrated to the United States, landing at New York May 19th, after a voyage of fifteen days. From New York Mr. Schaefer went to Iowa, where he worked at farming one year, when he came to Mower county and went to work

for Mr. Krebsbach, of Adams township, remaining with him about four years, since which time he has been engaged in buying grain for Gilchrist & Co. Mr. Schaefer was married to Miss Susanna Schaap, in 1881. She is a native of Wisconsin. One child has blessed this union, Annie Mary.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The town of Adams was organized in May, 1857. The first town meeting was held in section 16, on the open prairie. At this meeting the following officers were elected, viz: For Township Board, Mathias Rooney, Chairman, Mathew Carey, Reynold Olson; Treasurer, P. F. Rooney; Clerk, Wm. Madden; Justices of the Peace, William Madden and Stephen Heimer; Constables, Ole T. Jacobson and John Sanders.

#### FIRST THINGS—FIRST MARRIAGE.

The first couple to be joined in the holy bonds of wedlock was Mr. M. Krebsbach and Miss Susan Bandes. The great event took place in September 1858.

#### FIRST BIRTH.

The first birth in the township, was a daughter of Stephen Olson, born in December 1855, a few days after the death of her father. She lived to be about two years of age, when she died, and was buried in section 11.

Mathew Heimer, son of Stephen Heimer, has the credit of being the first male child born in the township. He was born march 29, 1858.

#### FIRST FARM MACHINERY.

The first seeder, mowing, and threshing machines, was brought to the township by

Mr. M. Krebsbach. He also owned the first span of horses in the township.

J. S. Irgens was the first postmaster in the town. The office was kept at his house, in section 8. The office was established in 1859.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

School district No. 6 was organized in the fall of 1858. A small school house was erected of logs and covered with hay. It was located in section 22. A term of school was kept in this house during the winter of 1858-59, P. M. Rooney wielding the birch. This house was burned by a prairie fire the following summer. Another log house was erected on the site of the old one, in which Mr. Rooney was also the first teacher. This building was also burned, when a good substantial frame was erected one half mile south of the old one. The first teacher in that house was Miss Nillis Nason.

District No. 7 was organized in 1858. The school house is located in section 8.

District No. 8 was organized in 1858; a school house was erected in 1873, located in section 11.

District No. 71. This district was organized in 1871. The first school was held the same year at the house of John Fagans. Robert Carter being the teacher. In 1872 a frame school house was erected, 14x18, in section 25. The first teacher in this house was Miss Lizzie Boding. Maggie Madden is the present teacher.

District No. 72 was organized in 1871. The first school house was built in 1868, in section 22. Miss Catherine Madden taught the first school.

#### RELIGIOUS.

The first religious services were held at the house of John Fagans, in 1858. The next year, (1859) the inhabitants erected a log church 16x20, ten feet high. In 1860, an addition, 12x14, was built on to the old building. The building was used for church purposes until 1868, when it was replaced by a substantial frame structure, 30x60, sixteen feet high, with vestry 12x32, twelve feet high. The building is provided with steeple and bell, which cost \$300. The building complete cost \$4,000. This was the first Catholic church in the county. The trustees of the church are M. Krebsbach, Stephen Heimer, N. Himan, Mathias Carey. Rev. B. Bowman was the first permanent priest, he came in 1875, remaining with the church six years. The church was commenced by Father Keller, collecting by subscription. Father Stachen took charge of the church in 1881, remaining until relieved by Father Nicholas Schmitz, December 14, 1883. There is connected with the church a parsonage, which is a nice frame structure, 32x24, 20 feet high. The church has a membership of about 160 families, and is in a prosperous condition.

The present officers are: Henry Heinner, Treasurer; Patrick M. Rooney, Secretary. The ten acres, on which the church stands, was given to the church by John Heinner.

#### CATHOLIC SCHOOL.

A school is kept in connection with the church, under the Supervision of Father Schmitz. The first teacher was Antone Buhr, the present teacher is Jacob Krebsbach, who is also leader of the choir. There is an attendance of about seventy-five schol-

ars. Services are regularly held every Sunday, except the second Sunday, when he goes to LeRoy.

Rev. Father Nicholas Schmitz came to the United States with his parents in November, 1868. After landing at New York they came to Minnesota and settled in Hampton township, Dakota county. He remained with his parents on the farm until 1874, when he began his studies. After a course of nine years he was ordained on the 26th day of July, 1882, saying his first mass on the 30th, at New Trier. He was then sent by his Right Reverend Bishop, of St. Paul, to Glencoe, McLeod county, to take charge of the missions west of that point, which included Hutchinson, Stewart, Hector, Bird Island, Montevideo and Appleton. He remained at this work until December, 1883, when he was appointed pastor of the St. John's congregation at Adams, from where he visits LeRoy once each month.

#### LITTLE CEDAR LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Little Cedar Lutheran Church was organized in 1859, by Rev. C. L. Clauson, who had charge of the church until 1871. The first church building was a log structure, built in 1863. Services were held in this building until 1875, when it was sold. It is now used for a creamery in the village of Adams. In 1876 the congregation erected a large frame building 40x60, 20 feet high, with vestry 16x24, 16 feet high. The building is adorned with a steeple 96 feet high. The building is not only a credit to the church, but to the township. The church is located in section 4. The site was purchased of J. H. Olson.

Rev. Christian A. Hilderbrand, a native of

Germany, born in 1807, was educated for the ministry of the Lutheran church; came to the United States. Landing at New York, June 15, 1846, where he followed his calling two years. In 1848 he went to Canada, remaining until 1851, when he came west to Illinois, where he preached the Gospel seven years, after which he came to Mower county and settled in section 30, and built a log house in which he lived until his death in December, 1864. His widow remained on the farm for ten years, after which she lived with a daughter a short time, and with a son two years. She now lives at the village of Adams. Mr. Hilderbrand was married to Mary A. Smith, November 15, 1844. She was a native of Germany, born November 7, 1816. Their children are August M., died January 3, 1847, Louis, Henry, Benjamin, August, Jr., Lena, Peter, Ida C.

Rev. Hilderbrand was the first Lutheran minister in the town of Adams.

#### FROZEN TO DEATH.

Stephen Olson and Stephen Christianson, spoken of as settlers of July 1855, were frozen to death December 8, 1855. They started on the morning of that day, with ox teams, to go to the Norwegian settlement, at Six Mile Grove, in Nevada township, to procure provisions, in which the settlers were in much need. They procured provisions and started home. A severe snow storm set in, and they evidently got lost. The team found their way home that night. One of the men's hats was found attached to the yoke. The next morning a party started in search. Their dead bodies were found three days later, in Lodi township. Each left a wife

and one child. They were buried in section 11, without any funeral services.

FROZEN TO DEATH.

Alice, second daughter of Mathew Rooney, was frozen to death in the winter of 1872, the circumstances of which are as follows: It seems that Frank, a son, and Alice, had gone to the village of Adams to trade, as Alice was to commence school at Austin the next Monday. The two left the village for home, with sleigh and horses about dark. It was storming very hard from the northwest. As the team had to face the storm, it was impossible to drive them, and in turning around broke the sleigh tongue. They wandered around all night. They were found the next morning just over in Iowa. Alice died; Frank lost his feet. He is now in Dakota.

THE VILLAGE OF ADAMS

clusters around the center stake of section 11. It has never been platted; but seems to be the outgrowth of necessity. The first business building was erected by W. E. Davis & Bro's in the fall of 1867. They put in a general stock of goods. They remained in business here until 1871, when they sold out to M. Krebsbach, who still carries on the business. A. D. Harris engaged in the mercantile trade here in 1882, which business he still follows. He is also the present postmaster; the office is kept at his store, he is also depot agent. The first saloon was opened by one Beacher, who came here in the summer of 1867. The village is represented by three (3) saloons, all in a flourishing condition.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP.

As to territory this is congressional township 102 north, range 14 west of the fifth principal meridian. It is bounded on the north by Frankford township, on the east by Fillmore county, on the south by LeRoy township, on the west by Clayton. The surface is gently rolling. While there is but little natural timber the abundance of shade testifies that tree planting has not been neglected. The soil is a dark loam, very fertile.

A branch of Root river, rising in section

16, runs through sections 15, 11, 12 and 13, from the latter of which it crosses the eastern boundary of the town.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement was made in the spring of 1856, by Robert, Edwin, Lucius and George T. Angell, Austin and E. J. Hutchinson, Ira Emerson, and E. J. Kingsbury, all from New York, of which state they were natives. Some of the party, after their arrival here, went further on, exploring the

country west and south. Apparently finding no lands which suited them better, they returned and all settled in the southwest part of the township.

Here, on section 32, with all practicable dispatch, they put up a house, if house it might be called, a temporary shelter ingeniously constructed of straw, poles and canvass, deserving of mention as the first dwelling of the higher order than the wigwam of the native, within the limits of Bennington.

Not any members of this colony are now living in this vicinity. The only one left in Mower county is E. J. Kingsbury, now a practicing physician in LeRoy.

Among the number who came in prior to 1858, were Mr. Stephen Guy and his three sons, Henry, John and Joseph, all men grown, who established themselves in the east part of the township, making what has since been known as the Guy settlement.

About the year 1860, the Guys were privileged to welcome as neighbors the following: William Cooper, John Tanner, Fred Willbright, a man named Beach and one by the name of Miller.

Sketches of other early settlers follow:

Robert Cooper, a pioneer in the town of Bennington. The subject of this sketch was born March 5, 1847. His parents were natives of England. He received a limited education, only going to school until nine years old. His father, William Cooper, came to America with his family in 1853, and first went to Illinois, and lived there three years, and then came to Minnesota. Robert Cooper was married in 1871, to Miss Rhoda Hague, also a native of England.

They have five children, Mary E., Noah W., Anna B., John A. and Samuel R., and all are living at home. Mr. Cooper has 240 acres of land in Bennington township, and all is under cultivation. He always votes for the best man regardless of party. He has held different offices in the township.

C. W. Kellner, a pioneer in the town of Bennington, was born in Wisconsin January 4, 1858. His parents were William and Fredericka (Miller) Kellner, both natives of Germany. They came to America in 1854, and settled in Minnesota in 1859. They came to Bennington township, Mower county, and purchased the west half of the northeast quarter of section 14. The subject of this sketch has always lived at home. His mother died fifteen years ago, and his father September 23d, 1883. Mr. Kellner has a nice farm of 240 acres. He was married March 6, 1884, to Mary Mann a native of Minnesota. Mr. Kellner is a Democrat, and one of the enterprising young men of Bennington township.

John Tanner was born in England, the 11th of May 1828. His parents were Richard and Mercy (Chapman) Tanner. John remained at home until 16 years old, and received a liberal education. He came to the United States August 21, 1855. He made a short stay in New York city, then came to Kendall county, Illinois. There he remained one year. In the fall of 1856, he came to Minnesota, and settled in Bennington township, Mower county, on section 13, southeast quarter. He was married to Sophia Harman, a native of England, in 1850. They have 3 children, Eliza, George A., and William T. Tanner. Mr. Tanner is a Democrat,

and has been Justice of the Peace for Bennington township.

One of the oldest settlers now living in the town is William Cooper, Sr. Was born in England in 1804. There grew to manhood and was joined in marriage to Mary Johnson. By this union there were nine children, seven of which are now living. Mrs. Cooper died in 1852. In 1853 he emigrated to America, and settled in Illinois, where he remained three years, then came to Minnesota, and spent two years in Fillmore county, coming from there to Bennington township. He settled on section 24. At the present time he has 320 acres of well improved land. He was married the second time to Miss Ann Bassett, a native of England. William Cooper, Jr., is the only child that has remained at home. He was born November 14, 1844. Has always engaged in farming. He has a farm of 80 acres, in section 24. Politically, they are inclined to throw their votes with the Greenback party.

#### SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

District No. 3. The first school in this township was taught by Mary McKinney. The school building of district No. 30 is situated in the southeast quarter of section 30. It is a frame building, put up about 1860, at a cost of five hundred dollars. Teresa Walker is the present teacher. Wages twenty-five dollars a month for the summer term of three months. F. A. Wales is clerk of the district.

District No. 85. The school house was built in 1874, at a cost of five hundred dollars. The first teacher was Clara Mehurin. Number of children drawing public money, six. Present teacher Lora Whitcher; wages

twenty dollars per month for five months. C. T. Bussell, present district clerk.

District No. 18. Of the same cost as the foregoing, is the school house in this district, built in 1875, situated on the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of section twelve. Present teacher, Julia Ker, wages twenty-one dollars 65 cents per month, for four months.

District No. 92. The school house stands on the southwest quarter of section 25. It was built in 1875 and cost one hundred and fifty dollars. The first clerk of this district was William Crawford; the first teacher Katie Mehurin. Number of children drawing public money, twenty-two. Present teacher Jessie Plummer; wages twenty-five dollars per month, for three months. Present clerk, J. R. Roberts.

District No. 95. The school house, situated on the southwest corner of sec. 8, was built in 1876, at a cost of three hundred dollars. Present teacher, Anna Langum; wages twenty-four dollars per month, for four months. Nine children draw public money. J. B. Langum, present clerk.

District No. 102. The school house of this district is in the northwest quarter of section 34. It is one of the five hundred dollar structures, and the newest, having been built in 1877. The first teacher was N. O. Borswold, the present is Anna Palmer; wages twenty-five dollars per month, for two months. Number of children drawing public money, fourteen. Present clerk J. C. Johnson.

#### ORGANIZATION.

For about four years from the time of the first settlement the inhabitants of this district were politically connected with LeRoy. In

the autumn of 1860 at the house of Robert Angell, was held the first meeting for the election of officers for the town of Bennington. The following is the list :

E. J. Kingsbury, Chairman of the Board.  
William Kelnar and Stephen Guy, Supervisors.

Ira Emerson, Clerk.

G. T. Angell, and John, Justices of the Peace.

William Cooper, Assessor.

The present town officers of Bennington are :

Supervisors, J. R. Roberts Ch'n, Michael Bowden, Paul P. Skow.

Justice of Peace, J. C. Johnson.

Clerk, F. A. Wales.

Assessor, J. C. Johnson.

Constables, Robert Shafer, C. B. Cox.

Treasurer, James Wiseman.

The first birth in the town was that of Florence Angell, in 1855.

The first death that of Mrs. Robert Angell in 1862.

The first marriage was that of Augustus Groby and Mary Guy, Esquire Tanner officiating.

J. C. Johnson was born in Ohio, November 20th, 1847. His parents were Truman B. and Martha (Cartlich) Johnson, natives of the East. Mr. Johnson lived at home until twenty-seven years old. He received a very fine education, and taught school thirteen terms. He married Miss Emma C. Story, April 10th, 1877. She is a native of Walworth county, Wisconsin. They have two children, Lois M. and Alberto B. Mr. Johnson came to Minnesota in 1855, and settled in Spring Valley, and remained until 1877, and in April of that year he bought eighty acres of land in Bennington township, and moved onto the place. He has the land un-

der fine improvement. He is a Republican, and has been town clerk, is now justice of the peace, and has held other offices of trust in the town.

Christofer C. Englestad, was born in Norway, November 21st, 1832. His parents were both natives of Norway. Mr. Englestad lived at home with his parents until he was twenty-six years old. He received a common school education, was reared to agricultural pursuits. He was married in 1858, to Miss Mary O. Brekke. By this union there are four children. Ole, Otilie, Christian A. and Martin. His two oldest children died in Norway, also his wife, in 1866. He was again married in 1869, to Caroline (Hovde) Hood, a native of Norway, and emigrated to Minnesota the same year, and settled in Bloomfield, Fillmore county, and purchased eighty acres of land in section 19, and remained for six years, and then came to Bennington township, in 1875, and purchased eighty acres of land on section 22. By the last wife he has seven children, Mary, Hilda, Dina, Albert, Emma, Oscar and Hannah. Albert died when he was ten days old. Mr. Englestad is a straight Republican.

Schuyler Speer, son of John D. and Maria (Johnson) Speer, was born in Seneca county New York, September 17, 1828. When a young man he learned the blacksmith trade of his father, with whom he made his home until 25 years of age, when he engaged in farming on his own hook. In April, 1856 he started west from Wisconsin. He rode with J. R. Mason, who was moving to Mitchell county. After visiting Iowa and Minnesota he returned to Wisconsin on foot.

In July of that year he again visited Minnesota and settled in the town of Moscow, Freeborn county, where he remained one year, then returned to Wisconsin.

He enlisted from there August 22, 1864, in Company F, Forty-second regiment Wisconsin Infantry. He was discharged on account of disability June 12, 1865, at Cairo, Illinois. He was pensioned in January, 1884.

He remained in Wisconsin until 1875, when he came to Mower county and purchased 120 acres of land in the southwest quarter of section 31, where he now lives. He was married July 2, 1853, to Elizabeth Roberts, a native of Ohio, born September 6, 1836. They have twelve children, named Celia A., Edward B., Catharine A., Charles F., Allie B., John D., Ethel O., Stella M., Hattie A., Francis J. and Oscar A. Mr. Speer is a Greenbacker, politically.

Christian Johnson was born in Norway, July 8, 1829. When he was 12 years of age he went to sea and followed the ocean as a sailor twenty years. He married Miss Eliza Erickson, also a native of Norway. In 1862 he settled in Whitewater, Wisconsin, where he remained two years, then moved to Greenfield, where he bought 80 acres of land, which he worked for ten years. He then moved to Bennington township, Mower county, where he purchased 280 acres of land, 80 of which were improved.

Obe Clouse was born in Megs county, Ohio, May 5, 1840. His parents were John and Margaret (Murray) Clouse. His father was a native of Pennsylvania, and died the 12th of February, 1882. His mother was a native of Ohio. Obe received a common

school education. He remained at home until he was 21 years of age. He enlisted in the United States army and served three years. He was in four battles, Island No. 10, New Madrid, Siege of Corinth and the Battle of Iuka. He was wounded during one of the battles, and was then put on the detached service and remained there until he was honorably discharged at the expiration of his term of enlistment. He then returned home and remained with his parents until 1877, and occupied his time in farming. He was married December 27, 1877, to Cynthia Pringle, a native of Wisconsin. They have one son, Frank, born in 1880. Mr. Clouse owns eighty acres of fine prairie land and has made many improvements. He moved onto this place in Bennington township, on section No. 1, in 1877, but bought the land in 1866 and 1869. Mr. Clouse is a Republican, and has been assessor for a number of years in his township.

J. R. Roberts was born in Portage City, Ohio, June 11, 1841. His parents were natives of Wales, and came to the United States in 1830. Mr. Roberts remained at home until 1869, and received a good education. He was married November 11, 1872, to Mary J. Perry. They are the parents of five children, Albert O., Glenn R., Stanley B., Edna M., and Maud. In 1878 he purchased eighty acres of land in section 26, in Bennington township, and has it all improved. Mr. Roberts is a Republican, and is chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and is one of the leading men of the town.

William Bryans was born in the County Fermanaugh, Ireland September 7, 1840. His parents were William and Bridget

(McGuire) Bryans. He remained at home until he was eighteen years old, and received a common school education. He came to Canada from Ireland, December 8, 1858, and remained in Canada until 1859, when he went to New York and then on to Chicago, but not until he arrived at LaCrosse, did he find a place that suited him. He remained in LaCrosse until 1880, when he left for Bennington township, Mower county, Minnesota, where he purchased 160 acres of land, all under improvement. He was married December 7, 1869, to Miss Mary O'Brine, a native of Ireland. They have six children, Margaret, Mary, Alexander, William, Edward, and Sarah, all living at home. Mr. Bryans is a Democrat in principle, and is one of the representative men in Bennington township.

C. T. Bussell, son of Joseph B. and Mary

Bussell, was born in the State of Maine, August 19, 1826. He received a practical education, remaining at home with his parents until eighteen years of age, when he engaged to learn the hatter's trade. He was afterward engaged in manufacturing hats, until 1861. He then engaged in Aroostook county, Maine, where he followed that occupation until 1863, when he came to Mower county, and settled in Bennington township. He was joined in marriage September 5, 1849, to Emeline Davis. Seven children blessed this union, named Charles E., Herbert E., Mary E., Joseph H., Emily C., Harry B., and Sibley. Mr. Bussell's brother, A. G. Bussell, makes his home with him. In politics Mr. Bussell is a Republican, and while in the East was often times called upon to address the people upon national subjects. At present he devotes his whole time to his farm of 480 acres.

## CHAPTER XX.

## CLAYTON TOWNSHIP.

Clayton township comprises congressional township 102 north, and range 15 west of the fifth principal meridian. It is bounded on the north by Grand Meadow township, east by Bennington township, south and west by Lodi and Marshall townships. The township is mostly prairie, except in the southwest corner, where is found a small belt of timber. The soil is a dark rich loam, which is adapted to all kinds of grasses and cereals.

Deer Creek takes its rise in section 9, running in a northerly direction to section 2, from which section it enters Grand Meadow township.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT.

John Johnson settled in the southwestern part of the township in 1864. He was then followed by Hiram Thompson. This was one of the townships whose lands were thrown onto the market at an early day and bought by speculators, the result of which was that the settlement was greatly retarded, and but few settled in the town until about the year 1870, when a good share of the

land owned by speculators was bought up and placed under cultivation, but many buying land on time failed (owing to failure of crops) to pay, when the lands again fell into the hands of the speculator. Although the town is sparsely settled there are a number of large farms in the township, viz.: W. Z. Clayton still owns 960 acres, 500 of which is improved; D. B. Colman owns 1,280 acres, 900 improved; C. A. Merrill owns 800 acres in sections 9 and 16.

## ORGANIZATION.

The township was organized June 20, 1873, and the following officers elected.

Supervisors, W. Z. Clayton, chairman; W. F. Mathews, John O. Wold.

Clerk, Charles B. Kennedy.

Treasurer, Sever O. Quom.

Justices of the Peace, J. B. Miller, S. Harolson.

Constables, J. W. Powers, O. C. Lather.

## NAME.

The township derived its name from W. Z. Clayton, owner of a large tract of land in the township. He was a native of Maine. He had lived a few years in Winona, and for

several years spent the summer months in the township. He is now State liquor agent in Maine, with headquarters at Bangor.

## PRESENT OFFICERS.

Supervisors, J. M. Gibbs, chairman; Peter Coniff, Theodore Stockbrand.

Clerk, James K. Sheaver.

Assessor, C. C. Carl.

Treasurer, Erick Johnson.

Justice of the Peace, C. P. Clayton.

## EDUCATIONAL.

The first school in Clayton township was a summer term, kept at the house of W. S. Root, in 1872. Miss Mina Hanna has the honor of being the teacher.

District No. 74 has the honor of building the first house for educational purposes in the township. The house was erected on the southwest quarter of section 28, and cost \$500. The first teacher was Henrietta Bevier; attendance 12.

District No. 83. The second school house in this district, was erected in 1876, its location the northwest corner of section 32, and cost \$800. Miss D. K. Lee was the first teacher.

District No. 109. The school building is located on the northwest corner of section 13. It is a frame and cost \$600. The first teacher was G. G. Dallen.

## CEMETERY.

There is but one cemetery in the township, which is under the management of the Norwegian Lutheran society, the location of which is in the northwest quarter of section 31, and contains one acre.

## FIRST MARRIAGE.

The first marriage was that of a Mr. Trumbow to Miss May Priest, a stepdaughter of

J. W. Powers. The ceremony was performed by J. W. Powers, Esq., in 1874. They now live in Wisconsin.

Decatur B. Colman, one of the most extensive farmers in Mower county, was born in the town of Springfield, Otsego county, New York, September 21, 1826. He was reared to agricultural pursuits. His early education, received in the district schools, was advanced by three terms at Oriskany Academy in Onondaga county. At 17 years of age he commenced teaching. He was thus engaged the greater part of the time for twelve years, in New York, Ohio and Wisconsin. He had, during the meantime, been engaged as clerk in a general store one and a half years. In 1855 he dealt in horses, buying in Ohio and shipping them west. In 1857 he moved to Iowa and located at Burr Oak, thirteen miles north from Decorah, and there engaged in mercantile trade. He continued in trade there two years, then in 1859 moved to Preston, Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he was a pioneer. He there opened a store with a large stock of general merchandise, and was, with Conkey Brothers, the leading merchants of Preston for many years. In 1874 he opened a branch store at Grand Meadow, the first in the place. In 1868 he purchased two sections of land, viz.: sections 15 and 22, town of Clayton, on which in 1869 he commenced improvements. In 1877 he settled on the farm and has since devoted his time to the improvement of the same. He was joined in marriage January 22, 1856, to Minerva E. Thayer. She was also born in the town of Springfield, New York. Two children blessed this union, named Clarence and Claudine.

Clarence, their first born, died at the age of two and a half years.

Mr. Colman has always taken an active interest in public affairs. He was a member of the town board in Preston and held the office of county commissioner in Fillmore county. He has been several times elected chairman of the board in Clayton.

Truman M. Gibbs, was born in Trempeleau, Trempeleau county, Wisconsin, August 17, 1857. He lived at home until twenty-two years old, and received a common school education. He left home in 1879, and came to Clayton township, Mower county, and settled in the southwest quarter of section 26, and is now the owner of 240 acres of land, nearly all being under cultivation. He has a fine natural grove on his place, consisting of 35 acres. He was married in Trempeleau county, Wisconsin, April 30, 1879, to Louie Lewis. She is a native of Norway. They have one child, Alma G. Mr. Gibbs is a Republican, and is Chairman of the Town Board, and is also one of the prominent men in the township.

C. P. Clayton was born March 4, 1843, in the town of Freeman, Maine. He received a common school education, and remained at home until he was 17 years old. He then worked on a farm for one year, and September 21, 1861, he enlisted in the first Maine Cavalry for three years. He served two months and five days over the three years, and was honorably discharged November 26, 1864. He came home and cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Clayton participated in many battles, and was the only one in his company but was shot, taken prisoner, or had a horse shot from under him. Af-

ter leaving the army he worked for five years for P. Jewell & Sons, manufacturers of Belting and Harness Leathers. Was foreman two years and nine months of the five years. In April, 1870, he went to Bangor, Maine, and engaged with a brother in the leather business, furnishing all kinds of harness and belting leather. In 1876 he sold out to his brother, and engaged again with Jewell & Sons for five years. He came to Clayton township in 1881, and settled on section 34. He was married to Francis M. Millson, of New York City, December 30, 1867. They have five children, Henry B., Ralph C., Ida C., Florence F., and Clara Bell. Mr. Clayton has been a life long Republican.

Charles Austin was born in Watertown, Wisconsin, October 21st, 1846. His parents were Buel and Lucena (Mead) Austin, both natives of the East. His father was at one time a manufacturer of buttons in Connecticut. Charles received a common school education, and remained at home until he was twenty-eight years old. He owned with his brother 108 acres of land in Wisconsin. He sold out his interest and moved to Taylor county, Wisconsin, where he took a homestead of eighty acres and bought eighty acres, and worked it for six years, when he sold and moved to Trempeleau county, Wisconsin, and remained a few years, and then moved to Clayton township, and purchased the northeast quarter of section 1. He was married August 25th, 1876, to Selma Revo, a native of Germany. They have one child, Arthur Austin, aged six years. Mr. Austin is a Republican, and is a prominent man in Clayton township.

## CHAPTER XXI.

## DEXTER TOWNSHIP.

The territory bearing this name is identical with congressional township 103 north, range 16 west. It is almost wholly a prairie, with a surface somewhat rolling. The only native timber to be found in the town is in the southeastern part. The soil is a dark productive loam, somewhat mixed with sand in the southern part, and also on the banks of Root river in the northern section.

## SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement within its limits was made in 1857 by Mahlon Parritt and his son, Dexter, who came here from the town of Marshall, where they had spent the summer. The son entered the southeast quarter of section 33. Here was the home of the father until the time of his death. Dexter Parritt, in whose honor the town was named, lived here till 1882, since which time he has lived in Marshall. For a number of years the Parritts were the only settlers in the town.

G. W. Bowles came to Dexter in 1859, stayed but a short time and then went to Missouri. Returning thence in 1867, he set-

tled on the northeast quarter of section 33, where he remained till 1879, when he sold his place to George Menck. The present occupant is Henry Derr, a native of Kentucky, who came here from LaCrosse, Wisconsin, where for some time he had been engaged in business.

Henry L. Slaven settled in the east half of the northwest quarter of section 34, in 1866. Slaven came to Mower county in company with his mother in the fall of 1856, and lived for some years in Windom. In 1873, he went to Fort Dodge, Iowa. He now lives in Montana.

The year 1867 brought John Pete here from Wisconsin. Mr. Pete is a native of England. He still occupies his home in the southwest quarter of section 7.

In 1868, Hammond Stowell, a native of Ohio, and his son-in-law, C. J. Shortt, a Vermonter, bought sixteen hundred acres of land in sections 5, 6, 7, 8 and 17. They broke one hundred and sixty acres of land that year, making their home on the northeast

quarter of section 7. After living there one year, Stowell sold to Ira Jones, and went to Hastings. He is now living at Northfield. Shortt remained six years and then went to Brownsdale. He is now a resident of Austin. John I. Wheeler, Joseph Cronk and George Rosa, son-in-law of the latter, also came in 1868. Wheeler bought a large tract of land in sections 5 and 6. After living there three years, he moved to Freeborn county, having sold his place to Dr. S. P. Thornhill. The farm was then occupied for a time by Dr. Thornhill's son, French, now a practicing physician at Spring Valley. Cronk and Rosa settled in the northwest quarter of the town, where they lived but a short time.

Hiram Thompson, a native of the State of New York, was another who arrived in '68. He bought the southeast quarter of section 27, where he still lives. In 1869, Henry Dudfield, Daniel Pearce and Nelson A. Huntington came to Dexter. Dudfield and Pearce, both Englishmen by birth, had been living for some time in Wisconsin. The former settled on section 21. He was a blacksmith, the first of that trade in the town, and is now living in section 24, adjoining the village. Pearce settled on section 22; he is now in trade in Dexter village. Huntington, a native of New York, came here from Wabasha county, and bought the southwest quarter of section 3, where he died in 1882. Two of the present occupants of section 11, namely, Daniel Williams and A. G. Tanner, settled here in 1874. Williams is a native of the Empire State. S. E. Peters, another who came in '74, settled on section

2; his wife died there. Peters is now in Dakota.

In the year 1876, '77 and '78, there was quite a boom in the settlement of the town. The following are named as having come to Dexter in that period: D. W. Adams, B. Cornforth, G. Seebach, Conrad Christgan with his sons, John and Fred, Conrad Broeschal, W. Arndt, — French, G. Gilliland, O. P. Johnson, Pat. F. Lynch, J. M. Peterson, O. Radway, Luther Rice, A. and R. Starks. The last eight settled in the north part of the town, Rice on section 1, Radway on section 12, Johnson on section 2, Peterson and the two Starks on section 3, Gilliland and Lynch on section 10; French settled on section 22. Adams was born in the State of New York; he came here from Olmstead county. His home is in the northeast quarter of section 35. Seebach and Christgan settled in section 32, where the former is yet living, also one of the sons of the latter, on the homestead. Christgan is dead. His other son lives in section 33. Proeschal is living in section 30, Arndt in section 31.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The town of Dexter was organized at a meeting held at the house of Henry Dudfield, in the southeast quarter of section 21, on the 6th of June, 1870. The stars and stripes were raised on a pole in front of the house in honor of the occasion. Dexter Parritt was chosen moderator, D. G. Pearce clerk, and Charles N. Pearce assistant clerk of the meeting. H. S. Slaven, Charles Brandt and Charles Blakely were appointed judges of election. The following were elected officers for the ensuing year:

Supervisors, Dexter Parritt Ch'n, Henry Dudfield, F. W. Thornhill.

C. J. Shortt and Hiram Thompson, Justices of the Peace.

D. G. Pearce, Assessor.

Nelson Huntington, Treasurer.

D. G. Pearce, Clerk.

H. S. Slaven and Nelson Huntington, Constables.

The last annual meeting was held at the house of J. K. Chadbourne, March 11, 1884. The following officers were elected:

Supervisors, Gottlieb Seebach Ch'n, Daniel Williams, W. J. Adams.

Clerk, Conrad Proeschel.

Treasurer, J. M. Christgan.

Assessor, J. K. Chadbourne.

Justice of the Peace, H. Derr.

Constable, J. Zwald.

Henry Dudfield, a member of the first board of supervisors in the town of Dexter, was born in Gloucester, England, July 31, 1826. When young he learned the blacksmith trade and worked at it until he was 16 years old, when he went to London and served an apprenticeship for three years and then went to Reading, in Berkshire county, and worked at his trade for several years, and then went to Bristol, where he was married March 7, 1852, to Eliza Ann Lloyd. She was born in Bristol October 30, 1830. They went to Birmingham and remained two years, and then went to London and worked at his trade for four years, and then returned to Birmingham and lived until 1858, when he sailed for America and landed in New York City, where he was joined by his wife in the fall of 1859. They lived in New York City until 1866, when he bought land at Long Island and built a residence and resided there until 1868, when he sold his property and started west. He spent the

winter at Madison and in the spring started with a team and drove to Mower county, where he bought 1,000 acres of unimproved land in the towns of Dexter and Sargeant. He built a house on the southeast quarter of section 21, and lived there three years. He then built another house on section 30, town of Grand Meadow, and made it his home until 1875, when he bought a house and three lots in the village of Dexter and moved into town, having rented his farm. In 1880 he moved to his present location, southeast of the village, adjoining the town plat. When he moved to Dexter he engaged at his trade, and was the first blacksmith in the village. He soon after opened a hardware store and was in that business until 1880.

Mr. and Mrs. Dudfield are members of the Congregational church, and were foremost in the organization of that society in this village.

Mr. Dudfield has been prominent in town affairs, and was a member of the first Board of Supervisors in the township of Dexter.

Daniel G. Pearce, the first assessor and first township clerk, as well as the pioneer merchant of Dexter, is a native of England, and was born in Gloucestershire, December 30, 1814. When he was 15 years old he was apprenticed to a tailor to learn the trade, and served until he was 21. He then worked as journeyman four years, and then became manager of the establishment. In 1847 he engaged with the Great Western Railway Company, and was in their employ until 1852, when he came to America, where he was engaged as cutter and salesman in a clothing store at Albany, New York, and

remained two years and then went to Chicago, where he worked at his trade for eighteen months. He then went to Wisconsin and bought wild land in the town of Windsor, Dane county. He built a house, improved the land and set out a large orchard and made it his home until 1867, when he sold and moved to Mazomanie, and there purchased a farm and remained until 1869, when he again sold out and moved to Mower county, Minnesota, and bought land in section 22, town of Red Rock, and lived there until 1874, when he came to Dexter and engaged in the mercantile trade until 1877, when he sold out and went to Worth county, Iowa, where he had charge of a farm, remaining there until 1883, when he returned and again engaged in trade. The subject of our sketch was married in 1841 to Ann Smith. They have raised a family of seven children, Eliza, George, Mary, Edith, Charles, Frank and Sarah. Mr. Pearce was the first clerk and the first assessor in the town of Dexter.

Nelson J. Huntington, the first treasurer of, and an early settler in the town of Dexter, was born in the town of Thompson, Sullivan county, New York, March 15, 1819. He was married in May, 1842, to Mary Ann Baldwin. She was born in the town of Oxford, New Haven county, Connecticut, May 16, 1818. At the time of their marriage they settled on his father's homestead, where he lived for two years, and then moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where he engaged in a furniture factory, painting and ornamenting chairs, and remained there five years. He then moved to Ohio, and was engaged in manufacturing chairs at Xenia, Green county.

He was in that business fourteen years, and then erected a factory and made powder kegs until 1867, when he came to Minnesota, and settled at Elgin, Wabasha county, remaining there until 1870. In 1869 he came to Dexter, and purchased the southwest quarter of section 3. He broke a portion of the land that year, and the next spring he built a house and brought his family. His death occurred July 19, 1882. They were the parents of six children, Edwin M., Lucius W., (Mary C., and Sarah A., twins) Laura E., and Rosalie C., all dead. Mrs. Huntington now makes her home with her son-in-law, N. A. Sumner.

Gottlieb Seebach, the chairman of the present Board of Supervisors in the town of Dexter, was born in Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, December 3, 1846. He is a son of E. and Mary Seebach, both natives of Germany. They came to America in 1845, and settled in Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, where they were early settlers. His father bought timber land and cleared a farm, on which they lived for a number of years, but now live at Red Wing. The subject of our sketch was reared on the farm and received a liberal education in the public schools. In 1864-65 he was employed as clerk in a dry goods house at Milwaukee. He was married at Milwaukee in 1869 to Mary Christgan, a native of Racine county, Wisconsin. Mr. Seebach, after his marriage, purchased a farm in Zumbrota township, Goodhue county, where they lived until 1877, and then came to Dexter and settled on section 32. His farm now consists of 320 acres of land, 260 acres being under cultivation. He has erected a fine

residence and barns, and has set out a grove of shade and ornamental trees, and has one of the best farms in Mower county. They have had three children; one only is living, named Arthur. Mr. Seebach has been prominent in town affairs, and has been in office the greater part of the time since he settled in the town. He was a member of the board three years, and is now serving his second term as chairman.

Daniel Williams, one of the early settlers of Pleasant Valley, a member of the present Board of Supervisors, is a native of New York State, born in Essex county, March 9, 1824. When he was one year old his father was drowned in Lake Champlain. His mother soon afterwards married Alpheas Williams, a brother of her first husband. In 1829 the family moved to Niagara county, and remained until 1836, when they emigrated to Michigan, and located in Branch county, where his stepfather purchased government land and resided there until his death. His mother still occupies the homestead. The subject of our sketch was married March 9, 1839, to Adelia Babcock. She was born in the town of Springwater, New York, November 6, 1830. He purchased a part of the homestead in Branch county, and erected a house and lived there until 1864, when he sold out and came to Minnesota, coming on the cars and boat as far as St. Charles, then by stage across the country to Rochester, and then with private conveyance to Pleasant Grove. In the fall of 1864, he purchased land of Allen Thayer, in section 14, town of Pleasant Valley, and made it his home until 1874, when he sold and came to Dexter, and purchased one-half sec-

tion of land of Franklin Smith, including the southwest of section 2, and the northeast of section 11. There was at the time 140 acres of the land improved, a good frame house and a large frame barn. Mr. and Mrs. Williams are the parents of ten children, Martha A., John J., Charles H., Clark P., Sylvia U., Melvin D., Ira R., Edward P., Alpha S., and Ida M. Mr. Williams is a member of the present Board of Supervisors.

M. J. Slaven, one of the pioneers of Mower county, is a native of Ohio, born in Zanesville, February 22, 1831, where he grew to manhood, and his younger days were spent in school and on the farm.

In 1855 he went to La Crosse, where he worked at the mason trade, which he had previously learned at Columbus, Ohio. In 1856 he started on foot for Mower county. He made a claim on section 13, town 102, now known as the town of Windom. In the fall of 1856 he was joined by his mother and sisters. Mr. Slaven built a large house, and his mother made her home with him until June, 1872, when she went to Winona and died there two months later. Mr. Slaven improved 100 acres of the land and made it his home until 1874, when he sold out and moved to Rochester, Olmsted county, where he kept a hotel for three years, which he sold and then bought a private residence. In 1880 he went to Dakota and took a homestead in town 157 north, range 53 west. He proved up on this claim and bought other lands in Grand Forks county, and city property in Grand Forks and St. Andrews, and sold it in 1882, and then came to Dexter and settled in section 34, on land that he had entered in 1855.

He has set out a large grove and erected a set of good buildings and intends to make it his future home. He was married in 1867 to Hannah M. Keye. She is a native of New York State. They have one child, named Mary Estella.

Mr. Slavin has held offices of trust in the town of Windom and was a member of the town board twelve years.

#### SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

School District No. 78. The first school in this district was the first in the town of Dexter. It was taught by Mrs. G. W. Bowles, at her home, a log house, situated on the northeast quarter of section 33, in 1868. A school house was built in the following year, on the southwest of section 27.

District No. 97. This district was organized in 1873. The first school was taught that year in Nelson Huntington's house, by his daughter, Mary, with a single pupil, her sister Rose. Later the territory of this district was attached to Dexter village. In 1877, the district was set apart and a school house was built on the northeast corner of the northwest quarter of section 2. Andrew Quinn and Cora Chadbourne were two of the earliest teachers in this house.

Districts No. 108 and 106. These were both organized in 1877. The first officers in No. 108 were: T. L. Roth, Director; B. Cornforth, Treasurer; W. J. Adams, Clerk. The schoolhouse was built in the same year. It is situated on the northwest quarter of section 36. Its cost, when complete, was six hundred dollars. The first teacher there employed was Jennie L. Schryver.

The first officers of District No. 106 were: G. Seebach, Clerk; W. Arndt, Treasurer; T.

Betcher, Director. The schoolhouse of this district is pleasantly situated on a rise of ground in the southwest quarter of section 29. It is a neat frame building, erected in 1878, at a cost of six hundred dollars. Jennie Fairbanks was the first teacher.

#### THE GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

This church was organized by Rev. C. Bender, of Red Wing. It belongs to the Minnesota Synod. The first members were Conrad Christgan, Gotlieb Seebach, John and Fred Christgan, G. Betcher, W. F. Jacobi and their wives. The first deacons were Conrad Christgan and wife, W. F. Jacobi and John Christgan. Rev. Mr. Bender was the first pastor. His successors have been Rev. John Achilles, of St. Paul; Rev. Mr. Kittel, of Albert Lea, and Rev. O. Hoger, the present pastor.

Conrad Christgan was the superintendent of a Sunday School which was formed in connection with this church. Since his death the school has not met.

#### DEXTER VILLAGE.

At the time the building of the Southern Minnesota Railroad was being agitated, Red Rock and Dexter, then forming one civil township, were bonded to the amount of \$22,000 to assist the railroad. After Dexter was organized as a separate township, it offered to the railroad company a bonus of \$5,000 to plant a station on section 16. Of this proposition the company took no notice whatever. It was afterward learned that they were bound by Brownsdale people not to establish a station within eight miles of that place.

The land on which the village of Dexter now stands, a little more than eight miles

distant from Brownsdale, was at the time owned by C. W. Perkins. One-half of this land Perkins gave to J. C. Easton, and they together platted the village in 1874. The first house in the village was a small shanty, fitly so called, put up by the railroad company for a depot and telegraph office; the second was a warehouse owned by J. C. Easton; the third was a frame building 18x28 feet, 16 feet posts, erected by Daniel G. Pearce, and used by him for a store and dwelling. Mr. Pearce's store was opened in 1874 with a small but varied stock of goods. In the autumn of the same year George W. Buck erected a building 22x50 feet, 20 feet posts, and put in a good stock of general merchandise. Buck was in trade continuously until November, 1883, when he sold out to his son, George A. Buck, and C. S. Wooster. This firm still carries on the business. The postoffice was established in 1874. It was for a time kept at the railway station. Amasa N. Converse, the first postmaster, has been succeeded by John L. Gaskill, L. M. Gaskill and George W. Buck. The last named holds the office at present.

George W. Buck, who was for years the leading merchant at Dexter, and is the present postmaster, is a native of the Green Mountain State. He was born in the town of Shaftsbury, Bennington county, November 15, 1823. His father and mother were both natives of Vermont. When the subject of our sketch was ten years old, his parents went to Ohio, and located in the town of Russell, Geauga county, where they lived eight years, and then moved to Stevenson county, Illinois, where his father died, in 1852. When Mr. Buck was twenty-one years

old, he embarked in the mercantile trade, at McConnell's Grove, Stevenson county, Illinois, and remained six years, and then removed to West Point, in the same county, and was in trade at that place until 1854, when he sold out and came to the Territory of Minnesota, to find a permanent home. He selected land in what is now the town of Orion, in Olmsted county, after which he returned for his family, and started with his folks in October, 1854, for their new home, bringing their household goods with them. After two weeks travel they arrived at their destination, and erected a log house on the land which he entered from the government. He resided on this farm for twelve years. He then rented the farm, and moved to High Forest, where he engaged in the mercantile trade, remaining there until 1874, when he came to Dexter, and opened a dry goods and grocery store, and has been very successful in all his business transactions. He is quite prominent in town affairs, having been President of the Village Board, and was the first Treasurer of the school district. Mr. Buck was appointed postmaster in 1881. In politics, he is a Democrat. He was married in 1851, to Roxie Ellis, a native of Rhode Island. They have six children, Phebe, George, Ella, Arthur, John and Eva. His oldest son, George, was born in Stevenson county, Illinois, July 12, 1854. He grew to manhood in Olmsted county, and received his education in the common schools. As soon as he was old enough he assisted his father in the store. He was married November 10, 1876, to Libbie Hoskins. She was born in the town of Franklin, Franklin county, Vermont. They have one child,

named Seymour. At the time of their marriage, they settled on the old homestead in Olmsted county, and lived there until 1883, when he formed a partnership with C. Wooster, and purchased his father's store, and has since been engaged in the mercantile trade.

Curtis S. Wooster, of the firm of Buck & Wooster, general merchants of Dexter, was born in Marshfield, Washington county, Vermont, January 22, 1855. He was at an early age a studious attendant at the district school, going from there to Goddard Seminary at Barre, Vermont, where he graduated in June, 1875. After graduating he accepted a clerkship with G. I. Jackson, general merchant at Barre. He remained with him one year, then went to Burlington, Vermont, and engaged with Lyman & Allen, wholesale and retail merchants. Six months later failing health compelled him to seek out of door employment. He returned to his father's house and farm. The following March he was elected superintendent of schools in Marshfield; also tax collector and constable. He engaged in teaching, which, with his other duties, kept him busy. The following spring he came west and located in Jordan, Fillmore county, where he bought a quarter section of land and commenced farming, which he continued until November, 1883, when he rented his farm and came to Dexter, purchased one-half interest in the store of G. W. Buck. In July, 1882, he was appointed town clerk of Jordan to fill a vacancy made by the death of the former clerk. He was re-elected clerk for the next year.

He was joined in marriage February 26, 1879, to Idella West. She was born in East

Montpelier, Vermont. They have two children, named Ralph E. and Fannie E.

In 1876 Pearce moved his goods into a new and larger store. Here he continued in business till 1877, when he sold out to his son George, the present proprietor. Toward the close of the year 1883, Mr. Pearce, the elder, again opened a store in the house he had first built.

In 1876 John Gaskill rented a building of L. B. Smith, where he kept a grocery store and restaurant about a year. He then made a change in his business. Dealing no longer in groceries he engaged more extensively in the sale of farm machinery, which he had previously handled in connection with his store.

In 1878 E. Mapes rented a building, stocked it with general merchandise and started his son in business. The enterprise not being wholly successful, in two years' time the store was closed.

Late in 1876 Jesse and Samuel King bought a building in which they opened a meat market, the first in Dexter. In the following spring they put in groceries. They were in trade but a short time. The business passed through several hands before it was finally closed.

Oliver now has a grocery store, which he opened in the autumn of 1883.

George D. Pearce, general merchant at Dexter, is a son of Daniel G. and Ann (Smith) Pearce. He was born in Gloucestershire, England, in 1844, and came to America with his parents when nine years of age, and made his home with them until the winter of 1863-4, when he enlisted in Company H, 36th Wisconsin Infantry and went South.

He was in the battles of Fort Spanish and Fort Blakely, also several minor battles. He was with the regiment until the time of their discharge in March, 1866, at Brownsville, Texas, when he returned to Mazomanie, Wisconsin, and engaged in farming two years. He then went to Worth county, Iowa, and bought wild land in Deer Creek township. He built a house and improved the land, and made it his home until 1877, when he sold, came to Dexter and bought the store of his father, and has since been engaged in trade. He was married in March, 1873, to Henrietta Beach. She was born at East Troy, Walworth county, Wisconsin. They have one child, Charles D., born June 13th, 1874, in Worth county, Iowa.

The first drug store in this village was started in 1875, by Joseph Simmons, in the building now occupied by Benner Brothers as a hardware store. In the spring of 1876, Mr. Simmons turned over the stock of drugs to his son, Rollon Simmons, a practicing physician, who sold out a few months later to Pettit & Stewart. This firm kept drugs for a time in connection with groceries. The drug business in Dexter is now in the hands of George Pearce.

The first hardware store was opened in 1874, by L. B. Smith, who was in trade rather less than two years. The second was opened by Henry Dudfield, in 1875. Dudfield purchased the hardware stock of L. B. Smith, and a building from Joseph Simmons. In November, 1876, David M. Vermilyea opened a hardware store in the building first erected by Mr. Pearce. Vermilyea was at this time in the employ of Walter Dixon, of Eyota, in whose interest he managed the

store for a year. At the end of that time he, David M., with John K. and James J. Vermilyea, bought the stock. The business was conducted by the Vermilyeas until 1879, when it was sold to Henry Benner, who also bought Dudfield's building. The business is now conducted by his sons, George and Bion Benner. They carry an assortment of heavy and shelf hardware, and have in connection a tin shop with a full set of tinner's tools for custom work. They also deal in sewing machines and agricultural implements.

The first grain buyer here was Amasa N. Converse, who first represented J. C. Easton, and later Wheeler & Hyde. The following named have also purchased grain in Dexter: W. P. Hoppin, Seth Keifer, G. Olson, Abner Hunt, A. J. Haskins, A. Gallipean, Charles Anton, J. Riddleton, Aleck Stewart, Alvah Hunt and George Hartwell.

The lumber yard was started by the La Crosse Lumber Company in 1874, whose agent in Dexter was Amasa N. Converse. John Paul purchased the business three or four years later. He is now represented here by George H. Bryan.

George W. and Bion S. Benner were born in the town of Nauvoo, Hancock county, Illinois. The former April 4, 1855; the latter April 17, 1858. They were reared on the farm and received their early education in the district school, which was advanced later on in the Keokuk, Iowa, Commercial and Business College. George graduating in 1875, and Bion in 1876.

In 1878 George came to Dexter and purchased land in section 36, and commenced to till the land. He still manages his farm,

but devotes the greater portion of his time to his business in the village. He is engaged in the hardware trade; has a fine display of shelf goods, also those of more bulk if not more useful, may be found at his door. Bion made his home at Nauvoo until 1876, when he followed his brother to Dexter, and accepted a clerkship in his father's store. He was married in March, 1884, to Minnie L. Welch. She was born in Walworth county, Wisconsin.

Oliver J. Dickins is a dealer in groceries at Dexter. He is a native of Pennsylvania. Was born in Tioga county, December 28, 1856. When quite young his parents moved to Potter county, where they lived until he was nine years of age, then came to Minnesota, and settled in Mower county. His father bought land in Red Rock township, and lived there eight years, when he sold and went to Grand Meadow and purchased a farm, on which he lived until his death. The subject of our sketch made his home with his parents until 1877, when he came to Dexter, and engaged as clerk with J. L. Gaskill, where he remained two years, and then engaged with G. W. Buck, and was in his employ until 1883, when he engaged in business for himself. While he was with Mr. Buck he held the position of deputy postmaster, and now holds the office of Village Recorder. He is well liked in the village.

The first blacksmith in Dexter village was Henry Dudfield, who built a shop in 1874, and worked at the trade for three years. The second was Abe Dewey, who started his fires a little later in the same year. In 1879, Dewey sold out to David March and Ed. Scott, who still continue working at the forge.

The third in order of time, was Joseph Vermilyea, who, in connection with W. W. Havens, a wagon-maker, opened in 1878, a combined smithy and wagon shop. The two continued laboring at their respective trades in that building for a few years only.

Edward Scott, the village blacksmith, is a native of Vermont, born in the town of Cambridge, Lamville county, January 1, 1846. When he was eight years old, his parents emigrated to Minnesota, and settled in Olmsted county, where they were early settlers. His father pre-empted land in what is now the town of Elmira. In 1858, the family went to Tennessee, traveling with a team a distance of nearly one thousand miles. They located in Cumberland county, where his father died a few months later. The following fall, his mother with her five children, came back to Minnesota, and settled in the town of Chatfield, where they lived five years, and then moved to Iowa. His mother now lives in Furness county, Nebraska. The subject of our sketch lived with his mother until 1862, when he enlisted in Company D, 8th Minnesota, and served until the close of the war, and was discharged with his regiment July 11, 1865. Among the most important battles in which he participated, we mention the following: Murfreesboro, Clifton, Kingston, and Raleigh. After his return he went to Winona, and worked in the Grant carriage works for three years, and then went to Colorado, and engaged shoeing horses for the Wells Fargo Stage Company, and remained two years. He then returned East and engaged in farming in Iowa for three years, and then went to Chatfield. In 1877, he came to Mower county, and in 1879 he

bought one-half interest in the blacksmith shop at Dexter, and has since worked at his trade. He was married September 22, 1882, to Emma Norris.

The first harness making shop was opened here in 1877, by Frank Stimson, who sold after a few months, to C. A. Warren, and removed to Brownsdale. Some six months later, Warren sold out to A. N. Converse. From his hands the shop very soon passed into those of a man named Nichols, who held it about a year and then closed up. This useful trade is now represented by J. Sherman, who set up his shop in 1879.

The first to set up shoe making in Dexter was Henry Olson, who represented the craft about a year, beginning in 1879. Robert Behring, his successor, seems to have been a little more contented, as his stay was considerably longer. Frank Trippie is the only shoe maker here at present.

The famous chapter on snakes in a descriptive work on the Emerald Isle. "There are no snakes in Ireland," might be paralleled to-day by a page in the directory of Dexter village, which should truly read, "There are no doctors in Dexter." A record of the past, however, would be incomplete without mention of three physicians who have been in practice here for a brief time. The first to open an office here was Rollon Simmons, M. D., who came in 1875, remained two or three years and then returned to Indiana. His successor was L. D. Jackson, who went from here to Grand Meadow. Dr. Cormic was the third and thus far the last, who undertook to make a living by looking after the health of the people of Dexter. He spent but a year in the place, then went to Dakota.

The first hotel in Dexter was built by D. A. Page, in 1872. It was opened to the traveling public in August. The building of the second was begun in September by Robert Swann. This too, was ready for occupancy before the close of the year. Mr. Page's was a frame building, standing close to the railroad track on the South. It contained, as first built, nine rooms. An addition of two rooms has since been made. Page managed the house for two years, then rented to J. L. Gaskill, who rented a few months later to M. D. Chamberlain. About a year afterward the house was closed. In 1880, O. F. Kelly purchased the property. The house was re-opened and kept for a time as a hotel. It is now used as a private dwelling. The building put up by Mr. Swann is situated north of the railroad. It contains twenty-one rooms. Mr. Swann continued as manager of this house till June, 1884, when he leased it to Z. D. Horne.

Robert Swann, proprietor of the Swann House, was born in Lincolnshire, England, March 16, 1830. When he was seventeen years old he commenced clerking in a grocery and dry goods store, and remained two years, and then came to America and located at Racine, Wisconsin, and remained until 1854, when he went to La Crosse, and worked at the mason trade for one year, then he went to La Crescent and lived there three years. He bought eighty acres of timber, twelve miles from La Crescent, and cleared ten acres, on which he lived two years, and then moved to High Forest, and remained three years, then removed to Orange, New Jersey, and lived there six months, then went to Vineland, New Jersey, and bought land

and built a house, and engaged in gardening and also worked at the mason trade for eighteen months, when he returned to High Forest and bought land three miles south of the village, and was engaged in farming until 1874, when he sold out and came to Dexter, where he built the hotel that bears his name. He managed the house in a way that made it profitable to himself and gave the house a good name. He was married in 1855, to Mary Beard, also a native of England. They have but one child, Mary, now the wife of O. J. Simmons.

The present railroad station in Dexter was built in 1875, 30x70 feet. One end is used as an office and waiting room, the other as a storage room for freight. Charles H. Pearce was the first station agent and operator. He was succeeded by C. G. King, and the latter by E. E. Bulin, the present agent.

#### VILLAGE OFFICERS.

The village of Dexter was incorporated by an act of the Legislature, February 28, 1878. It includes sections 13 and 14. The first meeting for the election of village officers was held in Gaskill's Hall, on the 12th of March, 1878. The following is a complete list of the persons who have held public offices in Dexter village from that time to the present:

1878—Aleck Stewart, President of the Board.

Councilmen—L. D. Jackson, L. M. Gaskill, G. W. Buck.

Recorder—C. H. Pearce.

Treasurer—D. M. Vermilyea.

Assessor—S. C. Pettit.

Justices of the Peace—J. L. Gaskill and H. Dudfield.

Constable—I. Denver.

1879—President, G. W. Buck.

Councilmen—L. M. Gaskill, J. K. Vermilyea and G. D. Peace.

Recorder—C. H. Pearce.

Treasurer—D. M. Vermilyea.

Assessor—J. L. Gaskill.

1880—President, G. W. Buck.

Councilmen—J. A. Swann, A. Stewart, and L. M. Gaskill.

Recorder—O. J. Dickens.

Treasurer—Robert Swann.

Assessor—W. H. Welch.

Justices of the Peace—J. L. Gaskill and O. F. Kelly.

Constable—C. E. King.

1881—President, G. W. Buck.

Councilmen—L. M. Gaskill, R. Hoppin and J. A. Denver.

Recorder—O. J. Dickens.

Treasurer—D. M. Vermilyea.

Assessor—J. L. Gaskill.

1882—President, G. W. Benner.

Councilmen—J. C. Genson, O. J. Simmons and Robert Swann,

Recorder—B. S. Benner.

Treasurer—G. D. Pearce.

Assessor—A. Gaskill.

Justices of the Peace—J. L. Gaskill and O. F. Kelly.

Constable—Ed. Scott.

1883—President, R. Hoppin.

Councilmen—G. W. Buck, W. H. Welch and A. Hunt.

Recorder—G. J. Dickens.

Treasurer—James Swann.

Assessor—L. M. Gaskill.

Justice of the Peace—R. Hoppin.

1884—President, G. A. Buck.

Councilmen—A. Vermilyea, George Hop-  
pin and D. M. Vermilyea.

Recorder—O. J. Dickens.

Treasurer—G. W. Buck.

Assessor—J. D. Converse.

Justice of the Peace—L. M. Gaskill.

Marshal—Peter Vandenoever,

G. W. Benner was elected Recorder but  
did not qualify.

Lucius M. Gaskill, justice of the peace in  
the village of Dexter, is a native of Ver-  
mont, born in the town of Lydon, Caledonia  
county, August 18, 1839. His father, Silas  
Gaskill, was also a native of Vermont, and  
by profession a preacher of the Free Will  
Baptist church. When the subject of our  
sketch was very young his parents removed  
to New Hampshire, where his father preached  
in different places in that State; then went  
to Maine, where he lived until 1851, then  
emigrated to Wisconsin and settled in Fond  
du Lac county, purchased land and engaged  
in farming. The subject of our sketch there  
grew to manhood. In 1860 he came to  
Minnesota and located at High Forest, Olm-  
sted county. He there engaged in farming  
and teaching. In 1868 he went to Minne-  
apolis and entered the State University, re-  
maining two and a half years, when, on ac-  
count of failing health, he returned to High  
Forest, where he lived until 1877, then came  
to Dexter, where he opened a collection of-  
fice. He was joined in marriage in 1876 to  
Sarah Cram, daughter of Ebenezer and Jul-  
iette Cram, early settlers of Olmsted county,  
where she was born. They have three chil-  
dren, Mary Lilla, Pearl.

Mr. Gaskill represented his district in the  
legislature while in Olmsted county. He

has been a member of the village council  
most of the time since its organization.

#### SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 86.

This, the school district of Dexter village,  
was organized in 1874. The first officers  
were:

Daniel Williams, Clerk.

G. W. Buck, Treasurer.

D. A. Page, Director.

The first school house was a temporary  
building merely, put up the same year, at a  
cost of \$150. School was taught in this dur-  
ing the winter of 1874-75 by Jesse King.  
The present house was erected in 1877. It  
is a commodious frame structure 24x46 feet,  
two stories in height, surmounted by a bell  
tower.

#### CHURCHES.

The first religious meetings in Dexter were  
held in '74. Rev. T. F. Ladd, a Baptist divine  
from High Forest, was the pioneer preacher.  
A few services were held, some of them in  
the school house, some in Pearce's hall. The  
outcome of these was a Sunday school, of  
which Israel Best was the superintendent.

In 1875, Rev. Cyrus Stone, Congrega-  
tionalist, from Massachusetts, visited Dexter  
and preached in the schoolhouse. An inter-  
est was awakened, and Rev. L. H. Cabel,  
superintendent of the Home Missionary So-  
ciety, came here and organized a church.  
The first members were Mr. and Mrs. Henry  
Dudfield, Rev. Cyrus Stone, Mrs. Frank  
Dewey, John DeYoung, Mr. and Mrs. Israel  
Best, Mrs. Fowler, Walter Hitchman, Wil-  
liam Cruikshank. Henry Dudfield and  
Israel Best were elected Deacons, and Cyrus  
Stone was elected clerk. Rev. Mr. Stone

became the first pastor; he was ordained that year at Grand Meadow. He was succeeded by Rev. R. B. Wright, who was followed by Rev. James Sikes, the last pastor. In 1877, a church edifice was erected at a cost of twelve hundred dollars, about one-half of which was raised in the East. Most of the members having left the town, no meetings are held here at present.

A Wesleyan Methodist class was organized here by Rev. Thomas Hardy. The first members were Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Hoppin, Delia and Mina Hanna, George Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Eben Gould. The class-leader was W. P. Hoppin. E. Markham and W. P. Hoppin were elected stewards. The class met for a time in Pearce's hall, then in the Congregational church, and later in the new schoolhouse. Rev. Mr. Hardy was the preacher until 1881.

The Methodist Episcopal class was organized by Rev. Mr. Stokes, of Brownsdale.

Among its members were Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Farrington, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. John Harris. R. C. Farrington was class leader and steward. Rev. Messrs. Barklow, Copp, and Caple have preached here since the organization.

In 1869, a union Sunday school was organized at the house of G. W. Bowles. The school was conducted by Mrs. Bowles and Henry Dudfield. It received donations of papers and books from the East and from the Congregational Church in Austin. There was a good attendance, and much interest was manifested. The present Sunday school at Dexter is a Union school, and the outgrowth of that organization.

Richard Hoppin, one of the early settlers

in Pleasant Valley, was born in the city of Providence, February 23, 1811. There grew to manhood, receiving his early education in the public schools of that city. When he was twelve years of age, he commenced work in a morocco manufactory, and was employed there until 1838. In the fall of that year he started for Wisconsin, on a steamboat to Albany, then by canal to Buffalo, then on steamer to Milwaukee, where he procured a horse, and made out to reach Walworth county. There he found a man holding as a claim the present site of the city of White-water, who offered the said claim for fifty dollars. Went two miles farther and purchased a claim that pleased him better. He then returned to Milwaukee, and in company with his brother John, opened the first exclusive boot and shoe store in Milwaukee, which at that time contained about four hundred inhabitants. In the winter his brother got homesick, and concluded to return to Providence. There was no railroad, and the lakes being frozen over he bought a horse, and made the home trip on horseback in forty-one days. In June 1839, his wife with two children started from Providence, taking the same route met him at Milwaukee after a journey of twenty-one days. They procured a team and drove to their new home. He built a double log house, and drew the lumber from Milwaukee to complete the building. The land came into market that spring, and he attended the first land sale held in Wisconsin, at Milwaukee, and there purchased the land he had settled on. In 1841 he traded that land for a squatter's claim, land now within the limits of the city of Milwaukee. He entered that land

from the government, and lived there fourteen years, and then moved to Columbus, Columbia county, and bought a farm and lived there till 1860, when he sold and came to Mower county, and purchased the southeast quarter of section twenty-eight, town of Pleasant Valley, where he remained till 1874, when he came to Dexter and bought eight acres within the limits of the corporation, and built the house they now occupy. He was married in 1835, to Lydia Potter. She was born in Cransten, Rhode Island, July 6, 1810. Nine children blessed this union, four of whom are living, Anna L., the wife of Luther A. Warren, of Milwaukee, Edward, William P., and George R. Their oldest son, Henry, was born August 18, 1838. He enlisted in 1861, in the first Minnesota battery, and died at Benton barracks, Missouri, in February, 1862.

George Washington Hartwell came to Mower county in October, 1867, and located on the north half of the southwest quarter of section 11, town of Pleasant Valley, where he was engaged in farming for three years, when he removed to High Forest, Olmsted county, and lived until 1872, when he returned to his farm in section 11, where he remained until October, 1874, when he moved to the village of Dexter and lived in the first house built in the village. He was engaged in railroad work for a time, and in 1876 he engaged in the lumber trade for A. N. Converse, also bought grain and farm

produce, and in the fall of 1877 he was the agent of Cargill & Van at this place. He was in this firm's employ for three years. In 1876 Mr. Hartwell bought a five-acre lot in Page's addition to the village of Dexter, and built a good frame house where he still resides. He was married November 29, 1857, to Miss Mary Hughes. She is a native of Wales, and came to this country when 6 years old. Her parents located in Dodge county, Wisconsin, where they now reside. Mrs. Hartwell was born September 10, 1843. Mr. and Mrs. Hartwell are the parents of three children, Ida L., Alva B. and Mina Maude, Anna Bell, (deceased.) Ida L. married O. C. Warren January 1, 1878. Mr. Hartwell was the first constable in the town.

Oscar C. Warren, a native of Pennsylvania, was born in Tioga county, October 1, 1849. He is the second son of Anson and Sally (Babcock) Warren. He remained at home, assisting his parents on the farm and attending school. In 1864 his parents came to Mower county and settled in section 1, town of Red Rock, where the subject of our sketch worked at farming until 1878, when he bought a five-acre lot in the north part of the village of Dexter, where he built a good frame house and barn and still occupies the same. He was married January 1, 1878, to Miss Ida L. Hartwell. She is the oldest daughter of G. W. and Mary Hartwell. They have one child, Clara Belle, born November 19, 1878.

## CHAPTER XXII.

## FRANKFORD TOWNSHIP.

This town includes congressional township 103 north, range 14 west, except the northern tier of sections, which belong to Olmsted county. It is bounded on the north by Racine, west by Grand Meadow, south by Bennington, and east by Spring Valley, Fillmore county. The surface is rolling, the soil is a dark loam, underlaid with a clay subsoil. It is one of the most fertile and productive townships in Mower county. About one-third of the surface of the township was covered with natural timber, while the remainder was prairie. The township is drained by Deer and Bear Creeks.

## EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

Many interesting facts cluster around the first and early settlement of this township, which will vividly be brought to mind by the mere mention of those pioneer days. The difficulties attending the first settlement of a county cannot be fully realized, or the hardship and privations that one must pass through to secure a home.

The first settler to cast his lot within the borders of this township was Lewis Patchen,

who settled on section 13, township 103, range 14, the 30th day of May, 1854. He is a native of New York State, and came to Iowa in the spring of 1853, where he remained one year, then moved to Frankford township and pre-empted 160 acres of land. A part of the same he still owns and occupies. The second pioneer was Byron Woodworth and family, of New York. He settled on section 22, where he lived for three years, then moved to Nebraska. The third settler was Bartlett Leathers. He settled on section 21. He lived on this place until his death in 1874.

Other early settlers of this township were Naaman Goodsell, Charles Lamb, Phillip Howe, Francis Teabout, Griffin Fryer, R. A. Donaldson, Samuel Scribner, S. Bostwick, Knud Nelson and Thomas Tebay:

Samuel Scribner was one of the pioneers of Frankford, where he settled in 1855. He remained an honored resident of the town until the time of his death in 1880. Nine of his children came west, only two of whom now live in Frankford, L. C. and Andrew J.

The former was born in York State February 17, 1852. He was but three years of age when his parents settled in Frankford. He received a liberal education and remained at home with his parents until 26 years of age. He was married October 31, 1875, to Martha Shaw, also from York State. They have two children, named Edna H., Ray E.

He was the census enumerator for the town of Frankford in 1880. In politics he is a Republican. His farm, which contains 160 acres, is located in sections 10 and 11. His mother has, since the death of her husband, made her home with him.

Andrew J. was born in Otsego county, New York, November 12, 1827. When he was two years of age, his parents moved to the town of Springwater, Livingston county, and lived there until 1853, then moved to Iowa. The subject of our sketch remained there until the spring of 1856, then joined his parents in the town of Frankford. The family together pre-empted 240 acres of land, the greater part of which has been occupied by some of the family since. He enlisted December 9th, 1861, in Company "I," 6th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He vetranized in January, 1864, and served until August, 1865, having been in active service a great part of the time. He participated in the following battles: Siege of Corinth, in April, 1862; battle of Chickasaw; capture of Arkansas Post, Jan. 11, 1863; Grand Gulf in May, 1863; Champion Hill and Black River in the same month; Vicksburg, May, 22nd, 1863; Siege of Vicksburg, until July 4th, 1863; Jacksonville in July, 1863; Missionary Ridge, in November, 1863, and was engaged in the assault that drove Longstreet and his

army to Virginia, at Resaca and Dallas, Georgia, in May, 1864; Kenesaw Mountain, June 15th and the 2nd of July, 1864; battle of Peach Tree Creek, near Atlanta, July 20 and 22d, 1864; of Atlanta, July 28; Jonesborough, in August, 1864; and at the taking of Fort McAllister, at the mouth of the Ozechee River, December 13, 1864. Beside these battles, he participated in skirmishes too numerous to mention. He was never wounded, but came so near to it as to have a lock of hair cut from his head by a bullet. After his return from the army, he engaged in farming. He is a single man and lives alone. Mr. Scribner has a good education and is an extensive reader, always well informed on the principal topics of the day, an enterprising man, always ready to lead and to aid any enterprise that is for the public good.

George W. Scribner, a brother, came with the family, and after a residence of two or three years in the State returned to Clayton county, Iowa, where the family had formerly resided, where, after a short time, he was married to Miss Sarah E. Cooledge. After living in Iowa about a year he returned to Minnesota, where he lived until about the year 1865, when he again went to Iowa, and after a brief residence there moved with his family to Rockford, Illinois, thence to the State of Missouri, and afterward to Kansas, and finally Indian Territory, where he died in April, 1872, leaving a wife and two daughters, who now reside in Clayton county, Iowa. George W. was a Democrat in sentiment and his occupation was that of carpenter and joiner.

The next younger brother, M. V. B. Scrib-

ner, lived with the family until about the year 1861, when he was married to Miss Ruth A. Sweet. After trying farming and various trades, he has finally settled on that of editor, and is now publishing a newspaper in the James River Valley, in the Territory of Dakota. In the year 1876 he held a legislative position, that of enrolling clerk of the Senate. He is of Republican sentiment, and settled in Dakota in 1881.

The next younger, Marcus H. Scribner, lived with the family until his death. He also held a legislative position, that of enrolling clerk of the House of Representatives, for the years of 1871, '72 and '73. He being crippled by the loss of a limb was obliged to work at various kinds of work for a livelihood. He died in May, 1874, at the age of 28, after an illness of five years from consumption. He was also a Republican, and remained single until his death.

Ann Eliza Scribner, a sister of S. C., was married in the State of Iowa, in the year of 1855, to Henry Doane. They came to Minnesota in about the year 1856, where they resided until the year 1869, when they removed to Union county, Dakota, where they now live. They have two daughters, Elffie and Inez.

Adeline Scribner lived with the family until about the year 1859, when she married Charles H. Chamberlain, a native of Ohio. His occupation was that of farming. They resided in the State until the year 1872, when they moved to Nebraska, thence to Kansas, where they now live.

Anna M. Scribner lived with the family until the year 1865, when she married H. B. Corey, the present Sheriff of Mower county,

and whose biography will probably appear elsewhere in this work.

There also came a cousin, Miss Mary Beadle, who resided with the family a few years, when she returned to Iowa, where she afterward married a Mr. B. F. Crum, a farmer by occupation. They afterward removed to Union county, Dakota, where they now live.

R. A. Donaldson was born in the City of New York, March 8th, 1834. His parents were natives of Ireland and came to America in 1812, and located in New York City, where his father engaged in business until 1857; then came west and settled in the town of Frankford. R. A. Donaldson's early days were spent in school. At the age of seventeen he commenced to learn fancy iron work and continued at the same until twenty-one years old, then came west and purchased 80 acres of land. This small amount of land did not satisfy his taste, and he made another purchase of 200 acres more of fine land, and has the same in a fine state of improvement. He is a Republican, and has held various offices in the township. In April, 1858, he was married to Robertine Woodworth. This union has been blessed with two children, John A. and Thomas E.

N. Goodsell was born in East Bloomfield, Ontario county, New York, 1822. His parents were natives of Vermont. He received a common school education and remained at home until 23 years of age. He then moved to Indiana and engaged in farming for a few years, when he started for the State of Minnesota and settled in the town of Frankford, Mower county. He has 210 acres of choice land, all under cultivation.

He was married in 1846 to Jane A. Good-

rich, of Geauga county, Ohio. Mr. Goodsell has held the office of town treasurer for ten years and is one of the substantial men in the township. His home circle contains six children, George W. James F., Lydia J., Windfield W., Eva and Addie.

Knud Nelson was born in Norway September 3, 1822. His parents were Nels Ekabot and Sarah (Neutsen) Nelson. Knud came to America in 1852 and landed at Quebec, and then went to Dane county, Wisconsin, where he stayed two years, then came to Frankford township, Mower county, and settled on section 7. He pre-empted 120 acres of land. At the present time he owns 270 acres; most of it under cultivation. He married Julia (Jul) Nelson. They have eight children, Sarah C., Julia M., Emma O., Nils K., Bertine, Julius R., Olave E. Alex A., all living. One of the daughters is married to J. W. Emerson of Rochester.

Mr. Nelson is a Republican and one of the prominent men in the township.

Charles Lamb, the son of William and Caroline (Bidwell) Lamb, was born December 11, 1831, in the town of Wells, Rutland county, Vermont. His father was a native of Vermont, his mother of Connecticut. His father was an industrious, hard working man. He had a small farm and was a boot and shoe maker, a trade which he worked at a great portion of his life. Charles received a common school education and remained at home engaged in farming until the fall of 1856, when he came to Mower county and pre-empted 160 acres of land in section 11, Bennington township.

He was married May 11, 1858, to Matilda Glover, a native of New York. They have

had eight children, Ida, Nathan F., William J., Lucius C., Emily, Edith, Ralph I. and Alice, two of whom are dead, Lucius C. and Edith.

Mr. Lamm is farming over 400 acres of land, all of which is under a high state of cultivation. In 1879 Mr. Lamb imported a few head of purely bred short-horn cattle, and has since been engaged in breeding short horns, which has done much toward improving the quality of the cattle in his neighborhood and vicinity. He now has a herd of splendid cattle, of which he is very proud. He still aims to improve his stock. He is a Democrat and a prominent man in the town.

Shelbern Bostwick was born in Geauga county, Ohio, January 17, 1821. His parents were Shelbern and Mercy (Smith) Bostwick. He attended school until twenty years of age, thus receiving a good education. He taught school three years, then in company with his brother opened a wagon shop. After two years he moved to Mantorville, built a shop and worked at his trade. He continued in business there two years, then sold and engaged in the same business in Thompson township. One year later he was burned out, and lost everything. He then went to Marshall county, Indiana, and purchased a wagon and blacksmith shop in the town of Plymouth. He carried on business there two years, when he sold and returned to Ohio, remaining there until 1857, when he came to Mower county, and settled in Frankford township. His farm contains 160 acres, located in section 22. He was joined in marriage November 9, 1843, to Emily Goodrich. They have three children, viz:

Charles N., Douglass M., Jasper. Mr. Bostwick is a staunch Republican, and was one of the first to talk Republicanism in Mower county.

Thomas J. Tebay came to Mower county in 1857, and located in Hamilton village, remaining there until 1869, when he removed to Frankford township, and purchased the farm that he now occupies in section 25. He was the third son of William and Isabella (Young) Tebay. Was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, December 15, 1828. He received a common school education, remaining with his parents until twenty years of age. He learned the trade of carpenter and joiner, at which he has worked twenty years. In 1854 he moved to Iowa, and settled at Spring Brook, Jackson county, and lived there until 1857. He was married January 15, 1845, to Anna Hunt, a native of England. She died a few years later, leaving one child, Gilbert C. His second wife, to whom he was married in 1858, was Angeline Abbott. They have six children, Leander, Thomas J., Minnie A., Ada M., William F., Newton.

William Harper was born in the north of Ireland, January 22d, 1822. His parents left Ireland April 6th, 1838, landing in Quebec, Canada. From there moved into York State. In 1856, William came to Mower county. He is now the owner of 220 acres of fine land, mostly under cultivation. His parents names were Hugh and Nancy (Wilson) Harper. The father is 97 years old and lives in the State of New York.

William Harper has been married twice. His first wife, Desdemona Mitchell, he married in 1848. She died in 1858, and left five

children: Charles H., Robert W., Albert E., Sarah Jane and Edwin M. Harper, all living but one. In 1860, he married Anna Hargrave. They have two children, William A. and James L. Harper. Mr. Harper received a liberal education, and is a citizen of the social class. Is a Republican in sentiment.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The township organization was affected on the 11th day of May, 1858, and the following officers selected:

Board of Supervisors—S. Bostwick, Chairman; Manoah Delling, J. J. Rymal, associates.

Town Clerk—Stephen A. Sherman.

Justices of the Peace—Phillip Howell, B. F. Langworthy.

Assessor—Naaman Goodsell.

Collector—George Rymal.

For Constables—George Rymal, Andrew P. McCabe.

Overseer of the Poor—George Anchor.

#### PRESENT OFFICERS.

Board of Supervisors—H. J. Lockwood, chairman; J. T. Tebay, E. O. Hoody, associates.

Justices of the Peace—Charles Lamb, R. F. Engal.

Town Clerk—S. E. Boyes.

Treasurer—Naaman Goodsell.

Constables—Solomon Quackimbush, William Northrup.

S. E. Boyes, town clerk, was born in Wayne county, New York, January 28, 1841. His parents were natives of England; came to this country in 1832, and settled in Wayne county, New York. His father died in 1842, and his mother in 1869.

S. E. Boyes remained at home three years after his father's death, and then made his home with Mason Jones, a farmer, and remained with him until twelve years old. He attended school winters until eighteen years old, and received a good education. Since he was twelve years old he has had to paddle his own canoe, and has traveled all over the United States. He left New York in the spring of 1857, and went to Michigan and clerked in a hotel in the village of Marshall. He then went to Wisconsin, Kenosha county, and attended school one winter. In the spring of 1858 he went to Howard county, Iowa, and from there into Minnesota, April 14, 1861. He enlisted in the First Wisconsin Infantry, under the first call for troops for ninety days. He served 126 days, 36 days more than he enlisted for. He was engaged in one brush with the rebels at Falling Waters, in West Virginia; he was honorably discharged. In 1865 he came to Minnesota with three old horses and only \$100 in money, but was very successful in breaking prairie, and made between \$4,000 and \$5,000. He purchased of Charles Lamb 160 acres of land, on which he still lives. The land is all under cultivation. He was married September 5, 1869, to Sarah J. Anker. They have four children, May N., Charles F., Lula M. and Edith J. Mr. Boyes has been prominent in town affairs, having been town clerk two years, deputy sheriff four years, constable eleven years, and district clerk for six years. In politics he is an independent Republican.

#### SCHOOLS.

The first school taught in Frankford township, was over Frances Teabout's store, in

the village of Frankford, in 1856. Miss Cummings, from Ashtabula county, Ohio, was the first teacher.

The first schoolhouse built in school district No. 16, was in 1857, on section 24. It was built of stone, and cost seventeen hundred dollars. The first teacher was N. W. Boyes, the present teacher, Miss Liza Anchor. Number of children in attendance, 35.

The first permanent school house in district No. 17, was built in 1873. But prior to this time, a temporary board shanty, 12x14, was used, costing about twenty-five dollars. Their first teacher was Mrs. Lamberton, she taught three months, at \$25 per month. Number of pupils, 11. The present school house is located on section 36, and cost one thousand dollars. G. A. Elder taught the first school and received thirty dollars per month. Miss Susan Russell is the present teacher. Number of scholars attending school, 25.

The first school in District No. 19, was taught by W. F. Grummings, in 1857, in a log house, built by Bothamel Canada, on section 22, northwest quarter. Number of children enrolled the first term was twenty. Wages paid teacher, \$20 per month. In 1870, the district bought the log house and site, and tore down the log house and built a fine wooden building on section 21, costing \$1,400. The present teacher is Kitty Basler. Wages, \$25 per month, for three months. School children enrolled, 32.

The first school house built in district No. 35, was made of logs, in 1856, located on the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 11. First teacher was Frank Johnson or John Fell, from Chatfield, Fill-

more county. In 1877, they tore down the log house, and built on the same ground, costing \$700. Number of children in attendance, 15. Present teacher, Bernice Vanlone.

The first school building in district No. 84, was erected in 1877, located on section 34, northwest corner, and cost \$750. First teacher, Miss Lydia Goodsell; wages received, \$25 per month. Number of scholars taught, 27. Elsie E. Hulbert, present teacher. Number of scholars in district, 9.

The school district No. 97, was organized in 1876. House cost \$450, First teacher, A. S. Woodworth; wages paid \$26 per month, for three months. Liza Wood, present teacher, receives \$20 per month, for two months. Children in attendance, 6. The first district clerk was Patrick Gogins, the present clerk T. M. Lakkee.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

Elder Cyrus Young was born in Almey, Lincoln county, State of Maine, May 11, 1815. His parents were Isaac and Sarah (Dunlap) young. Cyrus received a common school education, and at seventeen years of age he went to learn the blacksmith trade. He worked for one year, his health failed, and for eight years he was unable to do much work. When he was twenty-five years old he came West and settled in Indiana, working at farming and chopping wood. The same year he commenced preaching, as a Free Will Baptist, and preached in school and private houses for two years, and then left for Ohio to hunt up a brother, Isaac, whom he had never seen, as he engaged in the war of 1812, and never came home, but settled in Ashtabula county, Ohio. He remained with his brother two years, and while there he of-

ficiated in the Sheffield Church. In 1843 he went to Wisconsin, and married Emily C. Douglass, May 21, 1844. She was born June 15, 1813. They have four children, Matilda J., Emily A., Cyrus and John. Three of the children are living. John M., is a Free Will Baptist clergyman. In 1860 Mr. Young moved to Grand Meadow, and located on section 14, and purchased 160 acres of land, and remained there for two or three years, then sold and purchased 60 acres in Frankford township. Mrs. Young died in 1882. Elder Young, although an old man, still preaches occasionally for the people of Frankford village.

O. A. Foote came to Mower county in 1864, and bought eighty acres of land in section 12, town of Frankford. He is a native of York State, born April 4, 1828. His parents were Levi J. and Hannah (Beleher) Foote. He made his home with his parents until 24 years of age. During this time he had learned the trade of a carpenter and joiner, at which trade he has worked the greater part of the time, until the last two years. He came west in 1855, and located in Wisconsin. He lived in that State until 1864, when he came to Mower county, as before stated.

He was joined in marriage March 19, 1855, to Mercy E. Porter, of York State. They have two children, Ada M., John J.

Lewis Hall came to Mower county in 1864. He purchased 80 acres of land in section 36, of Frankford Winship, where he has since made his home. He was born in Oneida county, New York, December 6, 1814. His parents were Sylvester and Martha (Freeman) Hall. His father

died in 1833. The subject of this sketch continued to live with his mother until his marriage, December 28, 1842. His wife was Charlotte Woodard. After this his mother lived with him until the time of her death in 1868.

In 1854 Mr. Hall emigrated to Wisconsin and engaged in farming until 1864, when he settled in Frankford as before stated.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall have one daughter, Hattie, wife of Peabody Dexter. Politically, Mr. Hall is a Greenbacker.

Samuel Wilson, the son of Cassius and Sally (Hall) Wilson, was born in New York in 1822. His parents were natives of Vermont. At 12 years of age he went to live with his grandfather and assisted on the farm till he was 21. In 1843 he went to Ohio and bought 50 acres of land and remained there seven years. In the meantime he went to York State and married Charlotte Taylor, whose parents were Elon and Syrena Taylor, natives of Massachusetts. They have four children, Orson L., Hellen, Herbert G. and Cassius E., all living and doing for themselves.

In 1865 he came to Frankford and located on the northwest quarter of section 36. His farm contains 160 acres, valued at \$30 per acre. He engages extensively in the cultivation of strawberries.

W. H. Parker came to Mower county in 1865, and purchased 160 acres of land in Frankford township. He has been successful in his calling, and is now the owner of 400 acres of well improved land. He was born in the town of New London, Onondaga county, New York, January 29, 1830. When he was but 4 years old his father died, leav-

ing him in care of an uncle in Ohio. In 1849 he went to Wisconsin, where he purchased some land and engaged in farming until 1870, when he came to Minnesota and settled in Fillmore county. He was joined in marriage September 14, 1860, to Miss Hannah Wiseman, daughter of Phillip and Sarah (Williamson) Wiseman, natives of England. They have six children, Sarah M., Caroline A., Ralph J., Lizzie E., Mary M., Endora J. Mrs. Parker, the mother of W. H., died in 1882, having for many years made her home with him. Mr. Parker is one of the representative men of Mower county, always wide-awake and ready at all times to lend aid to any legitimate enterprise.

John Hawkins was born in the south part of Sweden, in April, 1827. His parents were Andrew and Minee (Astrison) Hawkins. He received a common school education; lived with his parents till 10 years old, then he was employed to carry the mail for one year, then for one year had the charge of horses. After this he went to learn the cabinet trade, remained three years, then emigrated to America in May, 1852; landed in New York City; went directly to St. Charles, Illinois, where he worked three months, then he started in pursuit of a brother going from place to place, but never found him, yet often heard where he had been.

Mr. Hawkins worked at his trade in Lyons, Iowa, six months, then went to Illinois and worked at farming two years, then to Minnesota and settled in Frankford. He enlisted in the fall of 1861 in the union army and served four years; was discharged in 1865. He participated in many battles, was

never wounded, but was taken prisoner, and made his escape from the hands of the rebels. He married Ellen Gunning, August 12, 1865. She was a native of Ireland. They have eight children, all living but one. Their names are Desten A., Lester T., John A., William A., Anna E., Ella E., Andrew I. and James S. Mr. Hawkins is not, strictly speaking, a party man, but has voted the Republican ticket.

George W. Dean was born in Canada West, February 20, 1838. He is a son of Russell and Theresa Dean. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-seven years old, and received a common school education. In 1849, his parents moved to Wisconsin and remained until the spring of 1850, when they moved to Winneshiek county, Iowa. In 1865 they came to Mower county, Minnesota, and purchased 160 acres of fine prairie land in section 34, town of Frankford, and still reside on the same. He has been assessor for fourteen years, and is one of the leading men of Frankford township. He was married in 1865, to Sarah M. Misener, of Winneshiek county, Iowa. This union has been blessed with six children, Frank L., Henry W., George E., Algelany E., Addie L. and Albert R.

In 1868, D. L. Quackenbush, came to Frankford, and purchased a farm of 80 acres, which he now occupies. He was born in Onondaga county, New York, May 12, 1842, is the son of Lambert D. and Emily Kathan Quackenbush, both natives of York State. In 1844, the family moved to Wisconsin. He engaged in farming there until 1868, when he came to Frankford, as before stated. He has been twice married. His first wife,

to whom he was married, was Angeline Col- lar. She died, leaving him two children, named Ornan Elmer and Willie Mertie. His second wife, to whom he was married, June 4th, was Maria Chreviston, also a native of New York.

Ebenezer Shaw was born May 14, 1809, in Connecticut; his parents were Jacob and Isabel (Gray) Shaw, natives of Connecticut. He received a good education, and remained at home until twenty-one years of age. He was married January 1, 1840, to Miss Lydia Pickering, a native of New Hampshire. They have had nine children, Timothy P., Sarah P., Juliet A., Charles H., Martha E., Leslie S., Osro D., Janette F. Janette F. and Charles H. are dead. He came to Minnesota from the State of New York in 1862, and settled in Chatfield, where he remained six years, coming to Frankford, Mower county, in 1869, and settled on section 12. His farm contains forty acres. Politically, he is a Republican.

Riley P. Cary came to Mower county in 1875. He purchased land in section 19, in the town of Frankford, within a half-mile of Grand Meadow village. He is a native of York State, born in Medina county, October 8, 1820. His parents were Joseph B., and Nancy (Wheeler) Cary, natives of New York. When a young man he learned the carpenter's trade. In 1845 he started West to seek a home. He located in Wisconsin, buying a farm nine miles from Milwaukee, where he lived until 1863, when he sold, and until 1875 lived in several different places. He was joined in marriage February 14, 1828, to Maria B. Gowen, of Livingston county, New York. Five children blessed this union,

Louisa M., Byron A., Hallie M., Stella G., Marion M., (deceased.) Mr. Cary is a Republican in politics, and takes a deep interest in public affairs. He never withholds his support from a good cause.

The village of Frankford is situated on the northeast of Frankford township, on sections 13 and 24. Laid out by Jacob Oleson in 1856. Frances Teabout built the first house and store. Samuel Metcalf built the first wagon shop, and James Gorman the first blacksmith shop. Charles Hanson was the first shoemaker. John and George Rymal built the first grist mill. This was located on Deer Creek, that runs through the village. This mill property passed from the Rymal Bros., hands to Charles Lamb, who ran it until 1861, when it burned down.

#### FRANKFORD POST OFFICE.

This office was established in 1856. Lewis Patchen was appointed postmaster. The following named have served since that time, T. M. Chapman, Charles Lamb. Lewis Patchen is the present incumbent. The business of the office amounts to about \$40.00 a year.

#### FIRST THINGS.

The first election that was held in Frankford village was at the store of Frances Teabout in 1856.

The first lawyer was William Covill, a first-class read lawyer.

The first physician was Erastus Belding. He remained there until his death in 1865. Alapathy school.

The second physician was W. P. Belding, son of Erastus Belding, deceased.

Lewis Patchen built the first hotel, which he still occupies.

#### CEMETERIES.

The Frankford Village Cemetery is located on section 24. It contains two acres of land, and was platted in 1856.

The Methodist Norwegian cemetery is located on section 7. It is nicely situated, facing to south and west.

#### HISTORICAL.

The first death in the township was in the family of Mr. Howell, on section 24 in 1856.

The first marriage in the township was performed by Squire Howell at the house of D. D. Frazier. The parties were Cyrus Titus and Miss Mary Beadle.

The first birth in Frankford township was Marion A., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Patchen, born March 13, 1855.

The first religious society organized was the Free Will Baptist. They built a church on section 24 in the fall of 1857, which they continued to use until it burned down in 1871.

The first religious services held were in Lewis Patchen's house, by Elder Robb, in 1856.

The Lutheran Norwegian Cemetery is located on section 7, northeast quarter, adjoining their church.

#### CHURCHES.

There is but one church in Frankford township at present. The different denominations hold meetings in school houses throughout the township, also Sabbath schools.

The Norwegian Luthern church is located on section 7, northeast quarter, township 103, range 14, was built in 1870, which cost \$3,000. The Rev. C. L. Clawson organized

this church and preached the first sermon. From 1870 to 1871 E. A. Fredrickson was then preacher in charge. The next pastor was E. A. Torson, who administered to them

for six years. Their present pastor is O. A. Bue. They have a membership of sixty families.

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## CHAPTER XXIII.

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### GRAND MEADOW TOWNSHIP.

The territory of the civil township, Grand Meadow, is that of congressional township No. 103 north, range 15 west of the fifth principal meridian. Its boundaries are Pleasant Valley township on the north, Frankford township on the east, Clayton township on the south, Dexter township on the west. The soil is of excellent quality, well adapted to the growth of all the crops commonly cultivated in this section of the country. This is a prairie township. The surface in the northern part is rolling, while in the southern it is quite level. An agreeable variety is imparted to the landscape by groves of trees, which have been planted with a liberal hand to aid and supplement the work of nature. The attention of the farmers of this district, until within a few years, mainly devoted to the production of wheat and other grains, is now being largely turned to the interests of stock raising and the dairy. Deer Creek, which takes its rise in Clayton township, flows through the southeastern part of Grand Meadow, mostly in sections 35 and 36. In the northeastern

quarter are two branches of Bear Creek, one of which, rising in section 3, passes through sections 2 and 12. The other lies farther south, and crosses the eastern boundary of the township in section 13.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement in the town of Grand Meadow was made by Erlund Olson, in the autumn of 1854. Olson was a native of Norway. He came here from Dane county, Wisconsin, and settled on the northeast quarter of section 12. The log house built by him here was the first in the town. After remaining here for some years, Olson sold his place and removed to the town of Racine, where he now lives.

The next settlers were Arthur McNelly and Andrew McCabe—the former a native of Ireland, the latter of New York State. They took claims on section 13. McCabe has since died; McNelly still occupies his farm in the northwest quarter of that section.

In August, 1856, B. F. Langworthy made a claim on section 12. He purchased other land near by, at \$2.50 per acre, until he ac-

quired in all nine hundred and sixty acres. In 1875 he sold it at \$25 per acre, and removed to Spring Valley.

In the latter part of the year 1856, S. H. Rice a native of the Buckeye State, settled on the northwest quarter of section 35, which remained his home until the time of his death in 1881. Mr. Rice was one of the original signers of the Grand Meadow railroad bonds, issued to the Southern Minnesota Railway Company. For some years he held the office of town clerk. He was known and respected as an honest man.

Isaiah Peterson came with his family to Grand Meadow in the spring of 1857, and settled on section 6, where they remained but two years. In 1858 two children of Mr. and Mrs. Peterson died of croup. A son, named Peter Peterson, was born to them in the fall of 1857.

William Seabern settled at an early day in the township's history on the southeast quarter of section 32, where he is yet living. Joseph Ross, coming a few weeks later, settled on the southwest quarter of section 33, adjoining Seabern's land. Ross was from Nova Scotia. He enlisted in the northern army in 1862, and died in the service at Nashville, Tennessee. His wife married again and went with her new husband to live in Dodge county. A few years later her wayward partner having absconded, she returned to the farm. Early in 1884, she removed to Dakota.

About the year 1858, L. E. Pearce came from Pennsylvania and took a claim on section 26. After making a little improvement he returned to the Keystone State, where he married. In the course of a few years he

came back and settled on his farm. He was engaged for some time in the grain and lumber business at Grand Meadow village; later he did a commission business in Milwaukee. He now lives in Morris, Stevens county, Minnesota.

In 1858, one William Pye, who came to these parts from Michigan, settled on section 34. After living here some years, he suddenly left his home and went to Wisconsin, where he was subsequently joined by his family.

Gilbert Christopherson took a claim in section 11, in 1856. He remained in the township two or three years and then returned to Dane county, Wisconsin.

Andrew Halverson, Ole Sorflatten and Helge Johnson were Norwegian settlers of 1858. The first named still occupies his farm of one hundred and twenty acres in the northern part of section 14. Sorflatten came directly from Norway and settled in the south part of section 11. He has recently died, and his family remain residents of the township. Johnson came here from Dane county, Wisconsin, and settled in the north part of the town. About the year 1879 he went back to Wisconsin.

O. E. Sarbon, A. Finhart, and Ole Loe, present residents of the township, were among the early Norwegian immigrants.

Clark Markham, with his brothers Erastus and Joseph, came here about the year 1859, and settled in section 16. Erastus still lives in the township; Clark and Joseph are in Dakota. C. B. Remington remains an occupant of his home in section 8, having been there since 1859. A Mr. Parker who once was settled in section 17, went away in 1864.

William Finendall and D. Vandover

came to Grand Meadow township in the year 1860, or near that time, and settled in section 5, where they remain to this day, the former in the southwestern quarter, the latter in the northwestern, his house, as shown on the map, being, if that be correct, not far from the county line. Henry Webber continues to live on the large farm in the northern part of section 4, of which he has been the owner nearly a quarter of a century.

A. Mr. Gleason and his son-in-law settled in sections 17 and 18. They afterward removed to Rochester, whence the former passed to his long Home. For account of one Knapp, who settled in section 20, see "Knapp case."

#### ORGANIZATION.

The town of Grand Meadow was organized in 1862. The first town meeting was held at the house of B. F. Langworthy, in section 12, on the 20th of April of that year. B. F. Langworthy, Chauncy Knapp and Orson Case were appointed judges of election, Alonzo Avery, clerk. The following is the list of town officers elected :

B. F. Langworthy, Ch'n ; C. Knapp, O. W. Case.

A. Avery, Clerk.

G. C. Parker, Treasurer.

C. B. Remington and S. H. Rice, Justices of Peace.

W. A. Lunt, Assessor.

N. C. Markham and J. M. McCabe, Constables.

#### PRESENT TOWN OFFICERS—1884.

J. H. Bulen, Ch'n ; O. E. Loe and Thomas Kinsella.

A. D. Moore, Clerk.

A. Oleson, Treasurer.

E. Jorgens, Assessor.

Thomas Kinsella and A. D. Moore, Justices of Peace.

M. Oleson, Constable.

#### THE VILLAGE OF GRAND MEADOW.

The tract of land upon which this village is platted was entered in 1858, by one N. Albee, who sold it to Henry Martin, of Connecticut. A transfer was made by Mr. Martin to Messrs. Hall, Easton, Thompson and Holly, who thus became proprietors of the original village site. F. H. Armstrong, of Alpena, Michigan, and L. E. Pearce laid out lots, and offered them for sale on the south side of the railroad track. The price of these being much less than that asked for the lots of the afore-named company, many were induced to buy them in preference to the others. Thus the south side has become gradually settled, until it is now the most desirable part of the village for residence. It should here be mentioned that the village was laid out in 1870, the railroad at that time, having been built as far as the creek east of the village site.

Lumber was hauled from Spring Valley to put up the first buildings, two warehouses and a lumber office, the latter owned by Richards & Bray. It is now occupied by John Tyrrell as a residence. The first house built for a dwelling was that now occupied by E. M. Barnard. Its builder, L. E. Pearce, is now a resident of Morris, Stevens county, to which place he removed in 1875. Pearce also built the first warehouse.

The first store was kept by D. B. Coleman, in the building now used as a postoffice. Then, 1870, it stood in the street, but was

afterward moved to where Mr. C. Greening's brick block now stands. For this small room, Mr. Coleman paid rent at the rate of \$40 per month. The building was, later, used for a liquor saloon. Most of the older dwelling houses in this part of the village were built in the years 1870 and 1871.

The Bell House, George Chatwood, proprietor, was the first to be finished and opened as a hotel at Grand Meadow. After a lapse of three or four years, it was leased for a period of five years by John McDevitt. At the end of that time, W. T. Hughart undertook its management. Mr. Hughart put an addition on the north side by moving across the street the Centennial House built by him in 1876.

Mr. A. Axtell was next in charge for a brief season. Now, for about two years the use of the Bell House as a hotel has been discontinued.

The Brown House was built by John Brown (now of Ossawattomie.) It was first kept by him, and afterward, for a few months, by Frank Dunbar. In 1877 Mr. Brown sold the property to F. M. Pierson, the present owner. At one time this was the only public house in the village, continuing to be such until George J. A. Corell began to entertain guests at his place of business, now a popular resort for traveling men. Mr. Pierson's, the Brown House, is well patronized by railroad men and others.

Two elevators were built here in 1875. Bonner & Hyde's was the earlier begun, but Cargill's was first completed. The latter was burned in 1880. Another has since been built in its place. During the years 1876 and 1877. Immense quantities of grain were

marketed here. It is said that in the last four months of 1877, the freight bills of the shippers amounted to \$22,000 per month.

A Mr. Plummer was the first to wield a sledge hammer within the village precincts. Mr. Plummer came from Hamilton, but he did not come to stay. Wherefore, when John Peterson put up a shop opposite the Collins' House, establishing himself and his trade in Grand Meadow for life, as it would seem, he gained a right to be considered really the pioneer blacksmith of the place. His old building now stands on First street, and is used by him for a wagon shop.

George Newson, the village barber, came here in 1876.

Meadow Lodge, No. 121, A. F. and A. M., was organized by dispensation in 1875. The first officers were M. O. Wilsie, W. M.; C. F. Greening, S. W.; S. S. Bacon, Sec'y; W. H. Bentley, Treas.; S. R. Warner, S. D.; A. Keith, J. D. A charter was granted and the lodge was instituted in February, 1876. M. O. Wilsie was Master till 1879. The present number of members is about thirty. They meet in a brick hall 24x40 feet, with suitable ante-rooms. Regular communications are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The present officers are; M. O. Wilsie, W. M.; W. W. Ranney, S. W.; O. Jorgens, J. W.; John Hudson, Sec'y; C. F. Greening, Treas.; James Ridlington, S. D.; E. M. Barnard, J. D.; F. T. Elliot, Tyler.

#### TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.

There have been two temperance societies in the village. The first of these was the lodge of Good Templars, which was organized on the 21st of April, 1875. The society



*J. H. Steward*

grew rapidly and during the short period of its existence, did a great deal of good. C. F. Greening joined on the night of the last meeting, making the membership 138. Another application was presented, but was never acted on. Owing to hard times, the society became unable to pay any longer the rent of the hall used for the meetings, hence their discontinuance.

The Temple of Honor was instituted in 1877, with Dr. J. D. Wilder, First W. C.; T. Moore, Secretary. About seventy-five members were at one time enrolled, and much good work was done by the society, many inebriates being permanently reclaimed, and many young men being led to take upon themselves pledges which they have never broken, and which, doubtless, have served to strengthen them in the hour of temptation. The society flourished two or three years, its dissolution being brought about through inharmonious action.

#### RELIGIOUS.

The first sermon in the village was preached in a liquor saloon, by Rev. A. Oleson, Norwegian Methodist minister, to prepare the room for the service, the bottles were taken down and placed on the floor, wholly or partially concealed from view, it is to be presumed. At a subsequent date a sermon was preached in Coleman's store by one Elder White, an eccentric man, of what denomination cannot now be stated. For some time after Mr. Oleson preached in the saloon religious exercises were held in the railroad depot.

A Scandinavian Methodist Church was organized in Grand Meadow township in 1866, by Rev. P. A. Birch. About eight

families composed the congregation. A church and parsonage were built at a cost of \$1,200. The organization is still in existence.

The Catholic Church building is situated in Pearce's addition. Its cost was \$2,000. It was erected in 1879, under the supervision of Father Hurley, of Austin. The first religious service of the Catholics in this town was held by Father Pendegras, a traveling priest, in 1858, at the house of Arther McNally, in section 13. Fathers McDermott, Keller and others have served as pastors of this church. Father Sullivan, of Austin, now officiates here about once a month.

There was much talk of building by the Norwegian Lutherans in the same year. A lot was purchased and stone placed on the ground for a foundation; but before further steps could be taken, owing to the hard times, many of the society moved away, hence the project was finally abandoned.

The Methodists agitated the subject at an early day, but took no active measure till 1883, when they purchased a lot of Mr. Hall at a nominal price and proceeded to collect the necessary funds for building. They now have a convenient and comely house of worship, with money in the treasury and no debt. The following have been their regular preachers:

Rev. W. H. Barkaloo, 1877-78; Rev. Mr. Mattson, 1879; Rev. W. R. Washborn, 1880; Rev. W. Copp, 1882-81; Rev. G. B. Caple, 1883-84.

This church has a Sunday school with an attendance of one hundred scholars. John Crisvell is the superintendent.

The Congregationalists organized here

about 1876 or 1877. Mr. H. B. Sheldon was one of the deacons. Rev. Cyrus Stone was the first pastor. A Mr. Shiles preached here a short time. The last was a Mr. Wright, whose term was a brief one of six months, the society being no longer able in that adverse season to raise money to pay a minister's salary and meet its current expenses. Rev. Cyrus Stone, it may here be noted, moved to Kansas, where he was killed by lightning.

#### LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The first services of this church were held at the school house at Grand Meadow, in 1876, by Rev. Mr. Ostby. A frame church building was erected during the summers of 1877-78, and is located in Pearce's addition to Grand Meadow, at a cost of about \$500. At the time the church was built there was about fifteen families belonging to the church. At the present time about ten families.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

There are at present four full school districts in the town of Grand Meadow.

District No. 20 is the northeast district. It includes sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 14 and 13, with the southeast quarter of section 10. The school house is in the northwest part of section 12. It is a frame building, somewhat out of repair at present.

District No. 53. This district contains sections 16, 15 and 9, with a part of sections 22, 10, 3 and 8. The house is in the southern part of section 9.

District No. 111 includes sections 6 and 7, also a part of 8 and 5. House in northeast corner of section 7.

District No. 69. This district comprises sections 28, 29, 30, 33, 32 and 31, with a

part of 21, 20 and 19. The house stands in section 29.

District No 69. This is joined with Clayton township. The school house is in Clayton.

Joint District No. 77. This is joined with Frankford. School house in Grand Meadow.

District No. 75. This is joined with Pleasant Valley township. The school building stands in Pleasant Valley.

District No. 86. This is another joint district. The school house is in Dexter.

#### POST OFFICE.

The postoffice of Grand Meadow was established in 1858, with B. F. Langworthy, postmaster. The postoffice was kept at Mr. Langworthy's house in section 12, until the village of Grand Meadow was started, when it was moved to that place. This was in 1870. At this time Mr. Langworthy resigned and was succeeded by R. Dunbar. The present incumbent, J. Criswell, was appointed in April, 1884. This office was made a money order office in 1879. The first order issued was by Rollin Dunbar July 7, 1879; amount \$1. The first order paid was to Peter Rose, July 23, 1879, amount \$28.35.

The *Record* of Grand Meadow is one of the important factors in the business interests of Grand Meadow, L. G. Moore, editor and proprietor.

#### BANKS.

The first banking establishment in this village was that of Greening & Warner, which was started in 1873 and discontinued in 1882. This was succeeded by C. F. Greening's, a private bank, with a capital of \$5,000,

still doing business. The bank of Grand Meadow was opened in 1876, by Lovell & Easton. This firm was bought out by that of Smith & Patterson, with the result of a failure in about four months.

J. Skyburg, general merchant of Grand Meadow, engaged in business in Company with M. H. Fyelstad, in June, 1874, who had previously been engaged in trade here. They ran the business together until 1878, when Mr. Skyburg sold his interest in the business to Mr. Fyelstad. The next year (1879) Mr. Skyburg again embarked in the mercantile business in company with Ole Johnson. This firm remained in business about one and a half years, when the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Skyburg continuing the business with good success until the present time.

#### GRAND MEADOW LIBRARY.

In November, 1883, the sum of sixty-four dollars was raised by subscription among the citizens of the place for the beginning of a public library. Of this amount, the village council gave ten dollars, in order to carry out the design. An association was formed, with the following officers: Rev. G. B. Caple, President; W. W. Ranney, Librarian; Mrs. H. B. Sheldon and Mrs. H. B. Martin, Directors. Membership in the society is secured by the annual payment of one dollar, which gives title to the use of the books. The present number of subscribers is fifty-two. The library now contains about two hundred volumes.

This village has furnished to the State Legislature one representative, the Honorable C. F. Greening, who was elected in 1875, and again in 1876, and whose record is very

creditable. Mainly through his exertions was the passage of the herd law effected, with the result of saving thousands of dollars to the farmers of this part of the country, although at the same time injuring his own business, the sale of wire for fences. Mr. Greening is one of the early settlers here, though not among the first, he having come to Grand Meadow in 1871.

The village has also furnished two county officers, namely, a sheriff, N. B. Cory, who has been elected for three terms in succession, and a county attorney for one term, George F. Goodwin, a man of ability, and deserving of re-election. In 1876, a special charter having been granted, the village was organized as a separate government, thereby gaining full control of the subject of license, and also the full benefit of all fines under the village ordinances.

#### GRAND MEADOW CREAMERY ASSOCIATION.

This organization was perfected on the 4th of February, 1882, with A. B. Lindsay, President; C. F. Greening, Treasurer; H. M. Lavel, Secretary. Business was started with a stock capital of three thousand dollars. A suitable building was at once erected, and furnished with the most approved machinery, run by a steam engine of fifteen-horse power. The creamery has a capacity of about two thousand pounds per day. In the autumn of 1883, a feed mill was added, at a cost of five hundred dollars. It has a capacity of about five hundred bushels per day. A dividend of ten per cent. was declared on the 1st of June, 1884, leaving a sufficient capital to carry on the business. In 1883, from the milk of about seven hundred cows, were made ninety thousand pounds of butter,

which was sold for twenty-one thousand dollars. George Goodsell, an experienced dairy man, has charge of the butter-making department.

During the thirteen years in which this village has had an existence, it has been visited by five destructive fires. The losses by the first four were a railroad tank in 1873, a house owned by Magory, occupied by M. T. Vining, and a barn with horses owned by R. McClosby. Of the latest and most serious the following is the contemporary account:

GRAND MEADOW HAS A TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR FIRE—INSURANCE, SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS—FULL PARTICULARS BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

At 11:30 P. M. Sunday, the 17th inst., the village was awakened by several revolver shots and an alarm of fire. The populace, so rudely and suddenly awakened, rushed to the scene. The fire was discovered in the rear of the unoccupied building, owned by F. M. Pierson, on Main street, and when the writer reached the scene was well into Heising's hall. A vigorous effort was made to confine it to the buildings named, with Geo. F. Goodwin's law office, which adjoined the building where the fire originated, and was doomed from the first. Messrs. Goodwin and McClosky succeeded in saving all of Mr. Goodwin's valuable library and the other effects of the office, including the safe. By this time it became apparent that the post-office was doomed. A strenuous effort was made to check it at this point, but with the limited conveniences at hand it was impossible, and it now became apparent that the whole row must go. The whole attention of

the populace was now turned to salvage and the stocks and the household furniture of S. S. Baken and W. W. Ranney were carried out into the street with a celerity truly marvelous. The usual damage from breakage and theft occurred, as a matter of course, but as a whole, the crowd was orderly and labored for the general weal. By the most severe exertions the flames were prevented from crossing Second street, and the buildings on the north side of Second street were saved in a scorched and blackened condition, and the glass in the fronts were broken by the heat.

As soon as the buildings were so far in flames as to be unsafe to enter, the attention of the impromptu fire brigade was turned to getting the goods under shelter. S. S. Baken put his into H. M. Kellogg's building; W. W. Ranney has his in J. C. Daston's building; J. Skyberg replaced his and P. Schleiger his. C. J. Taylor removed but a portion of his; L. G. Moore removed his office material from the Bell House, also Geo. Newsum his household furniture.

The losses foot up about as follows, beginning at the south end of the row: F. M. Pierson, dwelling \$800. No insurance. Geo. F. Goodwin, office building, \$150; F. M. Pierson, saloon building, \$200; Daniel Heising, saloon building, \$1,000; R. Dunbar, postoffice building, \$300; J. C. Easton, meat market building, \$100; August Fischer, dwelling and shops, \$300; P. A. Huss, building and household goods, \$800; S. S. Baken, building, \$1,500 and a portion of stock, probably \$1,000; M. H. Fjelstad, building, \$1,500; W. W. Ranney, a portion of stock and household goods, probably

\$1,500. There were various smaller losses, which we have no means of estimating accurately, but which will probably foot up to another \$1,000, making a grand total of \$10,100 swept away in an hour. Of this, about \$6,000 was covered by insurance.

The origin of the fire will probably forever remain a mystery. Whether it was coolly and deliberately set on fire, or whether it is the result of carelessness of drunken tramps, or whether it is "the visitation of Providence," we shall probably never know. One word in regard to the ladies of Grand Meadow—they labored with the most remarkable heroism and fortitude. For the results of the salvage they stand equal with the male portion of the village, and in many cases, borne up by excitement, they did even more; and they deserve the thanks of all for their heroic and unselfish assistance. Grand Meadow has received a blow from which it will take years to recover, and it is sad to gaze on the ruins and think of our beautiful village as it once was. It is our prayer that we shall never experience the terrors of such another night.

#### FIRST THINGS.

The first store for the sale of general merchandise in the town was that of D. B. Coleman.

The first hardware store, was C. F. Greening's, opened in 1871, and still doing business.

The first child not of aboriginal parentage, born within the limits of this township was Forrest E. Langworthy, now editor of the *Spring Valley Mercury*, published at Spring Valley, Fillmore county, Minnesota.

The first birth was of a daughter to John and Mrs. Peterson.

The first death was of a child of Mr. and Mrs. George Chatwood.

The first school house in the town stood on the southeast quarter of section 13. Miss Delia Evans was the first teacher. The building is now used for a store room.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

F. M. Pierson, proprietor of the Brown House, Grand Meadow, is one of the pioneers of Southern Minnesota. He located in section 1, town 104, range 15. This is one of the sections that was set off to Olmsted county, and now belongs to High Forest township. The date of his location was 1854. He occupied this farm until 1874, when he removed to Rochester and kept the Stevens House three years, then came to Grand Meadow and bought the present hotel. He was born in Chittenden county, Vermont, in 1834. When he was three years of age he went to Ohio with his parents, remaining there until 1840, then removed to Rockford, Illinois. He lived in Illinois until 1853, then went to LaCrosse, Wisconsin, where he stopped one year. He was married in 1860, to Kate Keyes. They have one son, Homer F.

Henry Moore was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, May 9, 1819. His wife was Jennie Carr. She was born in Otsego county, N. Y., in 1819. In 1856, he moved with his family to Clinton county, Iowa, and in December of that year came to Mower county, and settled in Racine township, remaining until the spring of 1863, when they moved to Martin county, Minn., remaining until driven out by grasshoppers. He returned to

Mower county, and settled at the village of Grand Meadow, where they still live. Are parents of one child, Lucius G. Mrs. Moore has the honor of teaching the first school in District No. 36.

S. S. Baken was born in Norway, January 29, 1852. His parents were Sigur S. and Sirei (Jensen) Baken. They came to the United States in 1854, and staid for a short time at Belvirdere, Illinois. In 1856 they came to Minnesota and settled in Fillmore county, three miles from Fountain. Mr. Baken received a common school education, and remained at home until he was 16 years old. After leaving home he went to Preston and remained two years. He then worked on a farm, and also taught school for a short time. He then came to Grand Meadow and entered the store of D. B. Coleman, as clerk, and remained three years. He then formed a partnership with Dr. Jenks, in the drug business, which was continued for two years. He then bought the doctor out and took in as partner George W. Robinson; they continued the partnership for two and one-half years. Since that time he has run the drug store alone, and is the only druggist in the village. He was married January 1, 1876, to Martha H. Ramseth, a native of Norway. They have one son, Alfred S., age 4 years. Mr. Baken is a Republican, and one of the leading men of Grand Meadow. In the fire that occurred September 18, 1882, Mr. Baken lost \$2,000, besides his insurance, and in the short space of three months he resumed business in the Kellogg building. In December following he moved into Allen Brothers' store, which he still occupies and is doing a large and prosperous business.

Cyrus P. Gladden was born in Dickerson, Franklin county, New York, August 9, 1843. His parents were William and Lous (Ovid) Gladden, both natives of Vermont. Cyrus received a common school education, and remained at home until 18 years old, when he enlisted in the Union army August 2, 1862, in Company G, 106th New York Volunteers. The first nine months was spent in Western Virginia, guarding the railroad and fighting Stonewall Jackson. He joined the army of the Potomac after the battle of Gettysburg in 1863. He was in fourteen engagements. Some of the principal ones were the battles of Martinsburg, North Anna and Tea Tavern, ten days in the Wilderness; Spotsylvania and Spotsylvania Court House and Cold Harbor. He served two years and three months, and was honorably discharged, on account of disability, in October, 1864. While in the army he received a slight flesh wound. On his return from the war he remained in New York State long enough to cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln. He came to Minnesota in 1864, and opened a wagon shop in La Crescent, Houston county, and remained there until 1878. Then he sold out and came to Grand Meadow, and opened a carriage shop, which he still runs. Is also agent for the Deering Farm Machinery.

He was married July 27, 1864, to Miss Lucretia Orvis, a native of New York. They have five children, Jay G., Frank C., Adney L., Ted G. and Lurena L.

E. M. Barnard was born in Massachusetts, November 11, 1837. His parents were Moses C. and Dency (White) Barnard. His father was a native of New Hampshire, and

his mother of New York State. Mr. Barnard received a common school education. He remained at home until a man grown, after which his parents made their home with him until their deaths, which occurred about two years ago. In 1850 the family left Massachusetts, spent nine months in Canada, then came to Milwaukee, where they lived for three years. They then purchased teams and moved into Dodge county, Wisconsin, where they bought eighty acres of land and farmed for thirteen years. They then sold out and came to Racine township, in Mower county, Minnesota, in the fall of 1865, and purchased 260 acres of prairie and timber land in section 26. Mr. Barnard lived on this place for ten years. In 1874 Mr. Barnard went to Spring Valley and dealt in grain one year, after which he moved to Grand Meadow, where he has since been engaged in the grain business. He was married January 25, 1859, to Emely J. Elkins, a native of Illinois. They have seven children, Emely E., May B., Hattie E., Henry H., George F., Rosa, Roy. Mr. Barnard is a Republican, and has been president of the village council, has also held other offices, and is one of the go-ahead business men of the town.

Ole E. Loe resides on the northeast quarter of section 13. The farm was first settled on by an Irishman named McKabe, who sold to Ingebret Nelson and Mr. Nelson sold to O. O. Loe, father of the present owner, in 1869. Ole E. Loe bought this farm of his father in 1874. Mr. Loe is a son of O. O. Loe, who, with his family, came to the United States in 1847, and settled at Koshkonong, Jefferson county, Wisconsin,

where they lived seven years, and then moved to La Crosse county, where they lived until 1869, and then moved to Mower county. O. O. Loe now resides on section 14. He was born in Norway in 1814, and has but one son, Ole E., who was born in Norway in 1842, and came to this country with his parents. His wife was formerly Matilda Gaarder, a native of Norway. They are the parents of twelve children, eleven of whom are living—Edward, born in 1859, now a student at Phillips Academy at Andover, Massachusetts, Samuel, Peter T., John A., Ida J., Daniel, Oscar A., Elias N., Emma T., Clara C., Eliza S.

Mr. Loe is now serving his fourth year as member of the town board. He has a fine farm of 200 acres.

John Peterson was born in Denmark, November 22, 1842. His parents were Peter and Annie M. (Hanson) Nelson. John remained at home until nine years of age. He then worked out summer's until he was fifteen years old, and then he commenced to learn the blacksmith trade, and served four years. In 1866, he with his parents emigrated to America, landed at New York, and started directly for Rochester, Olmsted county, Minnesota, where he worked at the blacksmith trade for four years, then came to Grand Meadow and bought village property, and built a blacksmith shop. In 1872 he opened a livery stable in connection with his blacksmith business. At present has nine horses. In 1875 he built a large livery barn, and is doing a good business in this line. He was married in Rochester September 30, 1869, to Miss Hannah A. Christenson, a native of Denmark. They have four children,

Elizabeth, Clara, Alma, and Albert F. Mr. Peterson has 160 acres of land on section 36, in Grand Meadow township, and it is all under improvement. He owns six village lots in Grand Meadow, with buildings on them. He is a strong Republican; is one of the village council, and also one of the practical men of Grand Meadow.

John Criswell is the present postmaster and station agent at Grand Meadow. He has held the position of station agent since April 19, 1882. He came here from Fountain, where he had charge of the station for ten years. He was appointed postmaster at Grand Meadow April 1, 1884. He was born in Ripley county, Indiana, in 1838; removed with his parents to Rock Island, Illinois, where he made his home until 1868. He took a course at Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College, at Davenport, where he also

began to learn telegraphy. He opened the first telegraph office in Sabula, Iowa, July 21, 1868. In February, 1869, he went to Bellevue, and in 1870 went to Fort Madison, and then to McGregor, in March 1872.

In January, 1873, he went to Fountain, Fillmore county, and took charge of the station, remaining there until 1882, when he was given charge of the station at Grand Meadow. He is one of the oldest operators on this line of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. His wife was Miss Edith Tompkins, a native of New York State. Her father is Robert Tompkins, formerly editor of the *McGregor News*. Mr. and Mrs. Criswell have an adopted daughter, Bessie. Mr. Criswell's parents were James and Lucretia Criswell; his father was born in Ohio, and his mother in Indiana.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

### LANSING TOWNSHIP.

Lansing is bounded on the north by Udolpho, east by Red Rock, south by Austin city and township, west by Freeborn county, and comprises all of town 103, range 18. The town is well provided with water and timber. The Cedar river enters the township in section 2, running through sections 11, 14; 23, 26 and 34, from where it enters Austin city. This river is noted for

its valuable water powers, two of which are located in the township. Spring Creek heads in section 4, and runs in a southeasterly direction through section 3, and enters the Cedar in section 11. Well's creek rises in section 16, passes in a southeasterly direction through sections 15, 14, and empties into the Cedar in section 23. Dobins creek enters the town in section 36.

from where it passes into Austin township. Turtle creek enters the township at the northwest corner of section 31, through which section it runs; leaving the town at the southeast corner. Timber was quite plenty along the Cedar river, when the county was first settled, which was mostly cut for building purposes. There is still considerable second growth timber in the township.

## TOPOGRAPHY.

On either side of the Cedar the country is comparatively level, generally with sufficient drainage. The western portion of the town has more of a rolling tendency, with groves of small oaks and grubs, otherwise composed of a nice rolling prairie.

## GEOLOGY.

The prairie along the Cedar, is composed of a rich soil of clay and vegetable mould, with a sprinkling of sand, making a natural corn soil. In the western part of the town—with exceptions of the prairie—yellow clay predominates. The prairie is composed of a black loam, underneath of which is a clay sub-soil,

## STONE QUARRY.

All the stone quarry there is in the township is found in section 23. On which the Ramsey Flouing Mill is built. Though having been used for building purposes are not considered of the best quality.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first to make a settlement in the township was H. O. Clark, known as "Hunter Clark," a name given him from his being an expert hunter. He came to the township in the fall of 1853. He took a claim and

settled on the northeast quarter of section 34. He built a log cabin a short distance northeast of where Oakwood Cemetery is now located. Clark was of the true pioneer stamp, could not stand crowding. He sold his claim to William Baudler, who took possession May 8, 1855. Clark went west, where he could have room. The last seen of him was in Idaho.

Samuel Clayton settled in sections 26 and 27, in the spring of 1854. He built his log house in section 26. He had a wife and several children. Mr. Clayton was a member of the M. E. church. The first religious services were held at his house. He built a shop and worked at his trade of blacksmith. He was one of the first, if not the first, to work at blacksmithing in the county. He worked at his trade, in connection with farming, until 1865, when he sold out to Michael Teeter and went to Kansas.

N. G. Perry settled in the township in the fall of 1854. He was accompanied by Samuel Dixon. They were formerly from New York State, and had their families with them. Mr. Perry sold his farm to C. P. Bell. He afterwards purchased another farm in the western part of the township. He sold out a few years later and went to Nebraska and to Knox county, Kansas, where he now resides.

John Pettibone, an old batch, entered three eighties in section 11, in 1854. He remained here until 1857, when he sold out to A. B. Vaughan and D. M. V. Stewart and returned to Ohio.

Alansing B. Vaughan came to Mower county, in company with two sons, in the fall of 1854. They were from Rock county,

Wisconsin, where Mr. Vaughan had been engaged in the mercantile trade. They took claims in section 10 in this township. After letting the contract for building a house returned to Wisconsin, where they remained through the winter. In the spring of 1855 Mr. Vaughan, with his family, accompanied by his five grown sons, two of whom were married, came with teams to their new homes in Mower county. The sons of A. B. Vaughan are Phineas D., John G., Enoch G., Herman B., Benjamin K.

Phineas D. located on the southeast quarter of section 3. John G. the southeast quarter of section 2. Enoch G. the northeast quarter of section 10. Herman B. the southeast of section 10. Phineas D. and John G. still reside in the town.

Phineas D. Vaughan, eldest living child of A. B. and Hepsibeth (Bean) Vaughan, was born May 27, 1830, in the town of Saranac, Clinton county, New York. He came west to Wisconsin with his father in 1843, where he lived on the farm and received a common school education. He was married May 21, 1853, in Rock county, to Elizabeth C. Frisbee. She was born in the town of Vernon, Oneida county, New York, February 4, 1832. She was the daughter of Chester and Celestia (Burr) Frisbee, a descendant of Aaron Burr, both natives of New York. Mrs. Vaughan's mother died when she was a child; the father was still living in 1884, aged 83. They had a family of eight children, Mrs. Vaughan being the oldest. The subject of this sketch came to Mower county in 1855, and engaged in farming and mercantile business at Austin, in company with his father. He was one of the first post-

masters, and the first town clerk of Lansing.

In 1884 he was engaged in the mercantile business, in company with his son. He has been connected in mercantile enterprises at various times with different parties. Mr. Vaughan is a member of the Masonic fraternity, of which he is master. Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan have six children, Warren B., Adeline R., Albert, Asa W., Nellie G., Leman B., four of whom are married. Mr. Vaughan is by trade a carpenter.

John G. Vaughan, second son of A. B. Vaughan, an old settler of the county; was born in Saranac, Clinton county, New York, May 30, 1832. He came with his parents to Rock county, Wisconsin. In the fall of 1854 he came, in company with his father, to Mower county, and took claims, returning to Wisconsin the same fall. In the spring of 1855 he came with teams to Mower county. He was living on his original claim in 1884. Mr. Vaughan was married March 18, 1854, to Mary R. Frost. She was born in Vermont, September 30, 1834. They have had six children, Clara, Berton, Harvey, George, Stanley and Mary. Mr. Vaughan in politics is a Republican, and has held local offices. Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan are members of the Baptist church at Lansing.

William I. Brown was born September 25, 1827, in Edgar county, Illinois, where he grew to manhood, and received his education in the common schools. He also attended St. Gabriel's College, at Vincennes, Indiana, one year. In May, 1855, he came to Austin, and clerked in his father's store. He has been engaged in wagon making, selling farm machinery, &c., until 1880, when he exchanged his property for the farm on

which he now resides, in section 32. Mr. Brown was married in 1860, to Anna Dishart. She was born in Alleghany county, Pennsylvania, in 1839, by whom he has eight children, viz: Magnus W., Mary, Ormanzo, Thecla, Leo, Paula, Zita, and Collette. Mr. Brown's family are members of the Catholic Church. Mr. Brown was the first treasurer of the city after its organization, and has held various other offices of trust. He has always been a zealous worker in the Catholic Total Abstinence Cause. He was also one of the principal organizers of the Catholic Temperance Society.

D. B. Vaughan was born in Clinton county, New York, July 3, 1835. He is a son of Benjamin and Joanna (Kimble) Vaughan. His father was a native of York State, his mother of Vermont. In 1853, the family emigrated to Wisconsin, and settled first in Rock, and later in Dane county. In September, 1855, D. B. came to Mower county, and pre-empted the land on which he now lives, the northwest quarter of section fifteen. He first built a log house, which, in 1873, he replaced by a commodious frame. He has also a good barn for the shelter of stock. He well remembers when in early days he hauled wheat with teams to Winona, a distance of eighty miles, and sold it for forty-seven cents per bushel. Mr. Vaughan enlisted in 1862, in Company C, 9th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, serving until August, 1865. The more important battles in which he participated, were the battles of Guntown, Mississippi, and Nashville, Tennessee. After his discharge he returned to his home in Mower county, and resumed farming. He was married March 13, 1861, to Elsie Lyons. She

was born in Canada. Six children blessed this union, three of whom are now living, Nellie M., Olive, Lettie M. Mr. Vaughan's father came to Mower county in 1856, and settled in Udolpho township, where he lived until 1870, then sold and moved to Dodge county. From there he moved to Olmsted county, and from there to LeSueur county. He now lives in Lyons county, Iowa. He has been twice married. By the first marriage there were eight children.

Among the settlers of 1856 were Thomas Gibson, William Rutherford, John P. and Harcar Lyons, John H. Watkins, Henry C. Aldrich, Joseph Gillen, Martin McNally, Joseph Smith. James McLaughlin, Alfred Bartlett, John Digman. Among those that came in later, who have been prominent in township affairs, are George Wood, John Mathieson, Anson C. Boynton, William M. Litchfield, Jonas Haney, E. H. Wells, G. W. Grimshaw.

(A sketch of Mr. Gibson will be found in connection with the history of the old settlers society.)

William Rutherford was born in the county of Dublin, Ireland, April 27th, 1822, where he grew to manhood, and received a common school education. He followed the occupation of farming. He was married in 1846 to Charlotte Morehead. She was born July 15th, 1818. In 1850 he emigrated to the United States landing in New York City July 12th, when he went to Kentucky, remaining there until 1854 or 1855, when he went to Iowa, remaining about one year, when he came to Mower county, Minnesota. Arriving in Lansing township the 10th of August, he entered the east one half, north-

east one fourth of section 11, on which he has since lived.

Laurence Digman, eldest son of John and Ann (Dougherty) Digman, old settlers of Lansing township, was born in Ontario county, New York, March 14, 1842. He went with his parents to Illinois, thence to Mower county in 1856, where he grew to manhood, and received his education. In August, 1862, he went to Dakota, where he enlisted in Company B, First Dakota Cavalry, in October, serving under Gen. Sully, and the different expeditions against the Indians. He was discharged November 10, 1865. On receiving his discharge he returned to his home in Mower county, where he still resides. Mr. Digman is a member of Col. Rodgers' Post No. 11, G. A. R. at Brownsdale. Mr. Digman was married April 1, 1869 to Ellen Leehy. She was born January 1, 1842, in Lower Canada. Their parents were natives of Ireland. They were married in Canada, from whence they came in 1861, and settled in Freeborn county, where they still reside. They had a family of twelve children, Mrs. Digman being the fifth. Mr. Digman's family are members of the Catholic church. They have six children, viz: Mary E., John M., Thomas J., Lawrence, Francis A. and William.

Harcar Lyons was born November 23, 1842, in Canada West. He is the son of Joseph Lyons, a native of Canada. He has always been engaged in farming. Early in the spring of 1856 the father came to Mower county to look at the country, with a view of finding a location for his two sons, John P. and Harcar. He bought

a claim of Oliver Bemis, and returned to Canada that summer. John P. came to the county and pre-empted a claim. He remained that summer and winter, when he returned to Canada, and in the spring of 1857 was married to Elizabeth Ryan, a native of Canada, and immediately returned to the county with his wife, accompanied by Harcar, the subject of this sketch. John P. deeded the claim 160 acres which he divided with Harcar. John afterward resided in the village of Lansing until his death, August 9, 1878. Mrs. Lyons after her husband's death sold the farm to Harcar Lyons and returned to Canada. She is now living in Minneapolis. Harcar was married November 24, 1870, to Mary A. Bernier. She was born October 12, 1849, in Canada. She was a daughter of Joseph and Harriette (De Mars) Bernier, of French extraction. Her parents were natives of Canada. They came to Illinois in 1854, and stopped at Morris, where the parents died. The mother dying after being there five weeks, with quick consumption, and the father eight days after, the doctor said of broken heart. Mrs. Lyons was the fifth child of six living children. In June, 1863, she came to Austin, Mower county, with her sister, Mrs. John Lambert, where she was married. Mr. and Mrs. Lyons have two children, Fay Eugene and Elizabeth Vetalique. Mr. Lyons is a Republican, and has held local offices, and is a member of the township board of which he is chairman. He owns 280 acres of land all in Lansing township. Mr. Lyons' father moved to Olmsted county, where he died in 1872. Mr. Harcar Lyons enlisted November 1, 1863, in Company B., Second Minne-

sota Cavalry, serving until December, 1865, when he has honorably discharged. He was on the expedition against the Siouxs, in Dakota, under General Sully. After receiving his discharge returned to Lansing and resumed farming, which business he still follows. Mr. Lyons is a member of McIntyre Post G. A. R. at Austin.

Jonas Haney was born in Sussex county, New Jersey, August 1st, 1828. He grew to manhood in his native county, receiving his education in the common school. His parents were John and Sarah (Berk) Haney. The father was a native of Pennsylvania, of German decent. The mother of New Jersey, English extraction. They reared a family of nine children. The parents made their home in New Jersey, until the time of their death. In 1851 Mr. Haney went to Port Jervis, Orange county, New York. He was joined in marriage there, January 15, 1852, to Sophia Miller. She was born in Orange county, New York, January 15, 1831. He worked at the carpenter and joiner's trade, which he followed three years after his marriage. In the spring of 1856 he came to Minnesota, landing at Winona, the first day of May. He remained there until September, when he came to Mower county and settled on section 30, in Lansing township, where he has since resided—with the exception of two years spent in Austin. His farm contains two hundred and seventy acres, is under a good state of cultivation. Mr. Haney is a Republican in politics, and has served as county commisssoner. He has filled various offices of trust in the town. He has served as chairman of the board

several terms on his township board, and is now serving his second term as assessor. Mr. and Mrs. Haney are the parents of four children, John W., Myron O., Frank and Charles.

John H. Watkins was born in England April 6, 1834. He came to America in company with an uncle, and located in Onondaga county, New York, remaining there until the fall of 1855, then started west. Remained in Illinois until the spring of 1856, then came to Mower county and settled in Lansing township, where he has since resided. He has always been engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was married in 1857 to Martha Arnold. She was born in Ontario county, New York. In 1855 Mr. Watkins experienced religion the following year united with the Methodist church. Mrs. Watkins united with the same church in 1857. They are both members at the present time. Mr. Watkins is one of the trustees of his church. He is a Republican and has held local offices.

William M. Litchfield was born in Springfield, Windsor county, Vermont, November 6, 1829, where he grew to manhood. After leaving the district schools he attended the seminary at Springfield, also Chester Academy. When but 17 years of age he commenced teaching, which profession he followed until 20 years old, when he went to Waltham, Massachusetts, where he was engaged in the Cotton Mills, remaining there until the spring of 1852, when he went by the way of the Isthmus to California where he engaged in mining. Staying there until September, 1856, when he returned to his home in Vermont, and in November of that

year he came to Mower county and pre-empted a claim just over the line in Freeborn county. He deeded his claim in December, which he exchanged for one in section 21 in Lansing township. Mr. Litchfield returned to his home in Vermont and remained there the winter of 1858. February 15, 1859, he was married to Miss Lucinda M. Boynton. She was born at Rochester, Vermont, April 15, 1836. In April the newly married couple started for their new home in Mower county, and a short time after bought and moved to their present place in section 34. Their farm contains 255 acres. Mr. and Mrs. Litchfield are parents of three children, Rose A., wife of Edwin G. Carter and in 1884 resided at Sioux Falls, Dakota, Charles A. and Sadie J. Mr. Litchfield is a Republican and has held local offices.

Lars Thorson, better known as Lewis Thompson, was born in Norway, September 13th, 1827. He remained in his native country until 1845, when he came to Rock county, Wisconsin. In 1856 Mr. Thompson came to Mower county and pre-empted a quarter section in section 7, where he still resides. He was married in Mitchell county, Iowa, August 1st, 1857, to Elase Tollifson. She was born in Norway in 1836, and came with her parents to Rock county, Wisconsin, when she was ten years old. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are the parents of nine children, viz: Jennie, Carrie, Theodore, Edward, Inga, Maria, Oline, Ole Lewis and Aaron. They are members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Thompson is a Republican and has held local offices. His farm contains four hundred acres, Mr. Thompson

was the first Norwegian that settled in the township.

Henry A. Chapin was born near Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence county, New York, July 11, 1827, where he grew to manhood, and received a common school education. He was reared on a farm. In the fall of 1856, he came to Austin, remaining a part of the winter, when he went to Dane county, Wisconsin. In the spring of 1857, he returned to Austin. After remaining here a short time, he went to Faribault county, near Winnebago City, where he took a claim and engaged in farming. He remained there until November 1, 1861. He then enlisted in our late civil war. He was discharged June 10, 1862, by reason of surgeons certificate of disability contracted in the army, from the effects of which he draws a pension. On receiving his discharge he returned to Winnebago City, and engaged at his trade of millwright in connection with farming until about 1865, when he sold out and went to Algona, Kossouth county, Iowa, where he worked at his trade three years. From there he went to Woodbury county, Iowa, remaining there three years, working at his trade. In the spring of 1871, Mr. Chapin again came to Mower county, and settled in Lansing township, where he has since lived. Mr. Chapin was married April 30, 1868, to Miss Maria E. Kinney, who was born in Pennsylvania January 29, 1850. When she was four years old her parents moved to Rock county, Wisconsin, going to Jones county, Iowa, from there and thence to Algona, Kossouth county, where they married. They have three living children, Edith M., Harvey A.,

Henry D. Mr. Chapin is a member of McIntyre Post, No. 66, G. A. R., of Austin.

Azariah H. Chapin was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, August 13, 1830, where he grew to manhood, and received a common school education. Mr. Chapin was married in the spring of 1855, to Elizabeth Maynard, a native of St. Lawrence county, New York. Soon after they started to seek a home in the far west going to Iowa, where they stopped until the spring of 1856, when he came to Austin and worked at millwright with a cousin. He afterwards went to Albert Lea and to Shelbyville, Blue Earth county, working at millwright work in each place. In 1858 he returned to Austin and worked at carpenter work until the fall of 1862, when he enlisted in Company C, 9th Minnesota Infantry Volunteers, serving until the close of the war, after his discharge he returned to Austin and resumed work at his trade, which business he followed until 1870, when he moved onto and commenced improving the land which he had pre-empted in 1856 in sections 21 and 28. Mrs. Chapin having died April 5, 1856, Mr. Chapin was again married June 23, 1874, to Miss Francis L. Aldrich, a native of Placerville, Eldorado county, California, born August 1, 1853. She is a daughter of B. F. Aldrich, an old settler 1856. He settled in section 20, in Lansing township, where he lived until the fall of 1877, when he sold out and settled in Idaho.

Mr. and Mrs. Chapin have three children. Abbie L., Benjamin F. and Herbert H.

Mr. Chapin is a member of the Masonic fraternity at Austin; also of the McIntyre

Post of the G. A. R. He is a Republican and has held several offices.

James N. Cook, a son of Rev. Stephen Cook, an early settler of Austin,—of whom a sketch will be found in connection with the Congregational church of that place. James N., of whom we write, was born in Franklin county, New York, in 1821. In 1837 went to Oberlin, Ohio, in company with his brother, William W., and entered the Preparatory Department of Oberlin college, remaining until the spring of 1856, when they came to Mower county. After remaining one year at Austin, purchased the farm on which he resides, in Lansing township. Mr. Cook was married in 1849, to Miss L. A. Barnes. She was born in Essex county, New York, in 1820. They have a family of four children. Mr. and Mrs. Cook are members of the Congregational church, of which Mr. Cook has been a deacon since its organization.

Robert Lewis was born in Norway, May 25, 1840. In 1853 emigrated with his parents to Wisconsin and settled in Green county, remaining until the spring of 1857, when they came to Mower county, settling in Udolpho township, where the parents died; the father in 1868, the mother three years later. Robert, of whom we write, was the youngest of four children, arriving at age he pre-empted the farm on which he now resides in Lansing township, erected a cabin in which he lived alone, and did his own cooking about three years, or until 1867, when he was married to Miss Emely Nelson. She was born in Norway, January 14, 1847. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis are members of the Lutheran church at Austin. Mr. Lewis is

one of the many successful farmers of his township, and turns his attention to grain and stock raising. His farm contains 120 acres under a good state of cultivation.

Christopher C. Bell, a settler of 1857, was born in Otsego county, New York, in 1828. His father was a native of Yorkshire, England, and emigrated to the United States in 1802, and settled at Albany, New York, where the parents died. Mr. Bell is one of the large landholders of the township.

John Mathieson, was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, March 14, 1833. He is a son of Charles and Margaret (Riach) Mathieson, natives of Scotland, where the father lived until his death, about 1844, dying in the house in which he was born.

Mrs. Mathieson was born in 1812. She had three children, viz: Violet, Ann (deceased), and John, the subject of this sketch. In 1853 John Mathieson came to Kenosha, Kenosha county, Wisconsin, where he engaged at his trade of shoemaking. In the spring of 1854 his mother joined him from Scotland, with her daughters, one of whom was married. They remained in Wisconsin until the spring of 1858, when they came to Mower county and settled on the farm on which they now reside, which contains 142 acres.

Mr. Mathieson is a benedict, not yet having found the lady of his choice. He received a common school education. In politics he is a Republican, and has been a member of the township board and in 1884 was township clerk. Mr. Mathieson is a member of the Congregational church at Austin.

Anson C. Boynton, was born in Wethers-

field, Windsor county, Vermont, July 24th, 1855. He grew to manhood in his native county, and received a common school education. He is of English extraction, his ancestors being born in England. Mr. Boynton, was married February 28th, 1834, to Lucretia J Morse, a native of New Boston, Hillsborough county, New Hampshire, where she was born May 26th, 1813. Mr. Boynton followed farming in Vermont and New Hampshire. In 1859 he came to Mower county, arriving at Austin September 20th, and moved on the farm in sections 27 and 34 which he purchased in company with William M. Litchfield, a son-in-law who had preceded him. Mr. and Mrs. Boynton were parents of two children, viz: Lucinda M., the wife of William M. Litchfield, and Mary J. Mrs. Boynton died May 9th, 1866.

Mathew Greyson was born in Lancashire, England, November 5, 1838. He received a common school education. The first work he did was in a printing office. In 1856, he in company with a sister crossed the ocean, and came to Aurora, Illinois, where he had a brother living, remaining here until the spring of 1865, when he came to Minnesota, stopping a short time in Freeborn county. Not liking the country, owing to the great amount of wet weather, he returned to Illinois, after which he went to Kansas, Pikes' Peak and to Missouri. While at Vicksburg he entered the rebel army under Generals Bragg, Beauregard, Johnston and others. When Rosecrans was advancing on Tellehoma, Tennessee, he held his ground while his regiment retreated. Mr. Greyson was taken prisoner by the Union troops be-

longing to McCook's corps. He remained a prisoner four months, when he was paroled in November, 1863. In the spring of 1864 he returned to Mower county and engaged with his brother in his mill south of Austin, remaining with him until the winter of 1869 or 1870, when he engaged in mercantile business at Austin, which he followed until the next spring, when he rented the Austin mill, which he operated until his removal to his present location. In the fall of 1872 Mr. Greyson built the Ramsey Flouring mill, of which he is proprietor. Mr. Greyson in politics is a Republican. Mr. Greyson was married January 3, 1866, to Sarah G. Otter. She was born in Madison, Indiana, in 1839. By this marriage he had seven children, viz.: Louisa, Anna, George, Wallace, Frank, Clara and Willie. Mrs. Greyson died September 15, 1882. Mr. Greyson is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

Among those who have come to the township later, who have been identified with its history, are G. W. Grimshaw, (see sketch in history of the Agricultural society,) A. P. McBride.

George F. Corneveaux was born in France, January 9, 1833. He emigrated to Oneida county, New York, with his parents in 1840. The family consisted of two boys and two girls. The father died in Oneida county, August 7, 1875, aged 75. His grandfather fought under Bonaparte. The mother is still living, age 75. George F., the subject of our sketch, says he received his education in the woods with ax in one hand and a piece of johnny cake in the other. He was married in New York, February 23, 1859,

to Elizabeth Bugnon. She was born in Oneida county, June 5th, 1838. In 1860 Mr. Corneveaux came to Mower county, landing at Austin March 18th. There were no railroads in Minnesota then. He had the fall previous visited the county and made arrangements to purchase a farm and returned to New York, when he returned in the spring with his family, consisting of wife and one child. He moved onto the J. K. Strever farm, where he remained one year. The next spring (1861,) he moved on his farm, there being no buildings, but a "hay roofed cabin, which he lived in that summer. In the fall he built and moved into the house he now occupies. His farm contains 308 acres. Mr. and Mrs. Corneveaux were brought up in the Presbyterian church. Their children are Annette, Franklin, Frederick, John, Ida, Plenny, deceased; Elizabeth, George, Olive, Alice. Annette is an artist of considerable merit.

Michael Teeter, was born in Canada, January 24th, 1824, where he grew to manhood. He received his education in the log school house of his day. After becoming of age he worked at the carpenter and joiner's trade. In the spring of 1851 he left Canada, and spent one year in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, and in 1852 went to Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he worked at his trade until 1857, when he moved to Otranto township, in Mitchell county, remaining until the fall of 1860. He voted for Lincoln in the forenoon and moved across the line into Mower county, in the afternoon, and settled in section 29, in Lysle township, where he lived until April 1865, when he moved to his present farm in section 27, which contained 330 acres, with good

buildings. Mr. Teeter has been twice married. His first wife was Emma Pest, to whom he was married on the 6th of October, 1854. She was a native of McHenry county, Illinois. They had one child, (deceased.) Mrs. Teeter died October 9th, 1855. Mr. Teeter married Francis J. Brown, December 29th, 1856, for his second wife. She was born in Broome county, New York, February 2nd, 1839. By this union he has eight children, Harriet E., William H., Charles M., Addie M., Chloe V., John M., Frank B., and Jennie L. Mr. Teeter is a member of the Masonic fraternity at Austin, he is also a member of the Farmers Alliance. Mr. Teeter is of German extraction. His great grandfather came from Holland, and settled in Pennsylvania. His grandfather went to Canada in 1795. When Mr. Teeter came west all his worldly possessions he carried in his carpet sack. By hard work and industry Mr. Teeter has accumulated a nice property.

Ole G. Anderson was born in Norway, October 11, 1849. He came to Mower county, and made his home with H. B. Olson on section 6, in Lansing township. After working out a few years he bought a farm, and was married June 6, 1876, to Telda Nelson, who was born in Iowa county, Wisconsin, November 16, 1856. He still resides on his farm, which contains 160 acres. They are members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Anderson is a Republican, and is a member of the township board; has also been clerk of his school district nine years. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have three children, viz: Mally, Otto, Serina.

Anderson W. Garred was born in Law-

rence county, Kentucky, June 15, 1832. His father was a native of Greenbrier county, Virginia. From there he went to Kentucky, where he married Miss Mary Wilson, a native of Virginia. When Anderson was seven years of age his parents moved to Missouri. After remaining there until 1849, they returned to Kentucky, where they lived until their deaths. Anderson W., of whom we write, is the seventh of twelve children. In June 1863, Mr. Garred came to Minnesota, arriving at Winona the 29th, remaining there until August, 1864, when he came to Mower county, and bought a farm in section 27, Lansing township, where he lived until July 1874, when he moved to his present home in section 33. Mr. Garred has a nice farm, containing 160 acres.

Mr. Garred was married in 1852, to Elizabeth M. Dyer, born in Lawrence county, Kentucky, in 1832. There has been born to this union eight children, George P., Wiley, James G., Rebecca B., Joseph P., Frank S., Charles S., Andrew G.

John Thompson was born in Yorkshire, England, February, 1841. When he was four years of age his parents emigrated to the United States and settled in McHenry county, Illinois, where his father entered government land, on which he still resides. John, the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood in this county and received his education. He enlisted in Company H, 95th Illinois Infantry, and mustered into the service in September, 1862. He, with his regiment, went south to the Western Department, under Grant; was also under Gen. John A. Logan. He was transferred to a colored regiment and was appointed orderly sergeant.

He participated in the massacre at Fort Pillow, April 12, 1864, where he was taken prisoner, taken to Chawaba, Alabama; from there he was taken to Andersonville, arriving at that prison May 2, 1864. He was taken to Florence, South Carolina, September 16, 1864, and February 1, 1865, was taken to Wilmington, and from there to Goldsborough, North Carolina, where he entered the Union lines February 28, 1865. Mr. Thompson was then sent to the marine hospital at Annapolis, and from there was sent to Camden street hospital, from where he was furloughed home. He afterwards served at Fort Federal Hill, Baltimore, and from there was sent to Richmond, from there to Memphis, Tennessee. As he had never been mustered into the colored regiment he received orders to report to his old regiment at Camp Butler, at Springfield, Illinois, where he was discharged. Mr. Thompson returned home to McHenry county, where he was married March 4, 1868, to Charlotte A. Roe. She was born in Geauga county, Ohio, January 28, 1845. They have one child, Lee Ora. In the spring of 1868 he came with his family to Mower county and bought a farm in Udolpho township, where he resided until April, 1873, when he sold out and moved to the village of Lansing. In June, 1882, Mr. Thompson purchased the farm on which he now resides. He is a member of the Masonic society and a Republican, and has held local offices, and at the present time is a member of the village council.

Frank O. Hall, son of R. O. Hall, of Austin, was born at Mendota, Illinois, July 29, 1860. When four years of age his parents moved to Wheaton, Illinois, now Prospect

Park, and from there to Dixon, Illinois. In 1873 came to Austin with the family and engaged in clerking for the firm of Hall & West, of which firm his father was a partner. He remained with this firm most of the time until the fall of 1882, when he engaged in the feed trade, which he followed until the spring of 1884, when he removed to the farm on which he now resides. Mr. Hall was married June 26, 1883, to Nettie Alderson. She was born at Galena, Illinois, September 12, 1861. She came with her parents to Austin when 7 years of age, where she was married. They have one child, Harry, born June 20, 1884. Mrs. Hall is a member of the Methodist church at Austin.

Frank Hanggi came to Austin in 1871, and engaged with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company, remaining in their employ one year. He bought two lots in the city of Austin, and with four cows commenced his present dairy business. In 1874, he purchased his present farm, which contains one hundred and twenty acres. He keeps nineteen cows, selling the milk to customers in the city. Mr. Hanggi is a native of Switzerland, born in 1832, there grew to manhood, receiving a common school education. In 1859, he emigrated to America. He worked in the copper mines at Lake Superior, in Michigan, six years, then went to Detroit, where he remained until coming to Austin. He was married, in 1867, to Louisa Kieser, also a native of Switzerland, born in 1845. They have eight children, Lewis, Frank, Rose, George, Bennie, Herman, Clements, Caroline. He is a member of the Catholic Church.

## ORGANIZATION.

A warrant was issued April 18, 1858, calling upon the citizens of Lansing township to meet and organize. Pursuant to said notice the legal voters met in the old log school house in section 27, and elected the following officers:

Supervisors—A. B. Vaughan, Ch'n; Jonas Haney, E. A. Snow.

Clerk—P. D. Vaughan.

Assessor—James McLaughlin.

Collector—Enoch Vaughan.

Overseer—J. H. Watkins.

Justices of the Peace—A. B. Vaughan and Emery Snow.

Constable—John P. Lyons.

Overseer of Highways—John P. Lyons.

The township was named in honor of Alansing B. Vaughan, a pioneer settler, the first letter of his name being dropped, making the name *Lansing*. The officers of the township for 1884, were:

Supervisors—Harcar Lyons, Ch'n; O. G. Anderson, Thomas Gibson.

Treasurer—William M. Litchfield.

Clerk—John Mathieson.

Assessor—Jonas Haney.

Justice of the Peace—William I. Brown.

## SOLDIERS' BOUNTY.

At a special meeting of the voters of Lansing, held at the village of Lansing, September 5, 1862, A. Sprague was elected chairman, P. G. Lamoreaux, clerk *pro tem*.

The following resolutions were unanimously passed:

*Resolved*, That we raise by tax on the property of the town of Lansing, one hundred and fifty dollars. That we pay twenty-five dollars to each of the following named persons who enlisted into the service

of the United States, after August 20, 1862, and prior to August 26, 1862, or as many of these as may be accredited to this town in making up the quota for the call of the president for 600,000 troops, and the filling up of the old regiments. John Harlley, Benjamin Vaughan, Augustus Whitney, — Phillips, William M. Lent, D. B. Vaughan.

It was further resolved that the town treasurer be authorized to collect the above tax on or before the first day of November, 1862, and to return the delinquent taxes to the county auditor.

*Resolved*, That the clerk of this meeting shall petition the legislature of this State to legalize the above proceedings, which was done. Lansing was one of the first towns in the county to give bounties. Her sons quickly responded to every call, and her quota filled without a draft.

## EDUCATIONAL—DISTRICT NO. 43.

The first school in Lansing township was a summer school in 1858. The school was held in a small house built for a residence by John Pettibone, in section 11, which had been fixed up for school purposes. The school was kept by Miss Anna Mathieson. She lived in the township with her mother, until her death October 22, 1860.

The first school building was a frame 24x30, built in the fall of 1858, on the northeast corner of section 11. The first school in this house was taught by George Wood. It was a winter term. After the completion of the house, there was an attendance of about 30. The lumber for this house was native lumber, sawn at the steam saw mill at Lansing. The district failing to pay for the lumber, the house reverted to the parties who furnished it, who sold it to Mrs. C. S. Rolph, who married Mr. George Wood. They have since used the building as a residence.

In 1866, a brick building 24x36, was erected on the southwest corner of section

2. The first school in this house was a winter term, taught by John E. Robinson. In the fall of 1871, owing to the old building being too small for school purposes, a frame addition was built 24x30. The summer term of 1884 was under the management of Miss Alice Padgit, with an attendance of about 40.

George Wood, a settler of March, 1857, was born in Monroe county, New York, March 19, 1828. He is a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Shottle) Wood. The father is a native of Orange county, New York. His father, when a young man, went to Monroe county, where he married, living in that county, until his death, which occurred in 1850, at the age of 57. His mother was still living in 1884. They raised a family of three children, Jane, George and William H.

George, of whom we write, remained at home on the farm until 17 years of age, when he taught his first term of school. He attended school at Brockport Collegiate Institute three summers, teaching winters.

In 1850 he went to New York City, where he commenced clerking in a grocery store, where he remained two years, when he returned to Monroe county and engaged in farming for two years, when, in 1855, he came to Rock county, Wisconsin, and taught one term of school that winter at Union, and during the summer of 1856 sold lightning rods in Wisconsin and Minnesota. In March, 1857, came to Mower county, and pre-empted a quarter section in sections 8 and 9, in Lansing township. He hired ten acres broke and sold it after keeping it three months. In 1858, he worked with the surveying party who located the Cedar Valley railroad, and

S. M. & S. P. railroad. During the winter of 1858-59 he taught the first term of winter school in the township of Lansing. In the spring of 1859 he returned to New York, remaining until 1861, when he returned to Mower county and made an unsuccessful attempt at farming. The summer of 1862 he, in company with William Webb, engaged in the manufacture of brick, which they followed that summer.

In November, 1862, he enlisted in Company M., Second Minnesota Cavalry, commanded by Col. McPhail, serving until December, 1863. He was under Gen. Sibley against the Sioux. After receiving his discharge he returned to Mower county, and in the spring of 1864 again engaged in making brick. In the fall of that year he, in company with P. D. Vaughan opened a general store, remaining in the business until 1866, when they sold out, and Mr. Wood again engaged in brick making that summer, and that winter taught school.

The summer of 1867 he spent in Minneapolis. In the fall of 1867 he, with P. D. Vaughan, engaged in the lumber business at Lansing, remaining in the business until 1870. In 1870 he erected a warehouse and began to buy grain, which business he still follows.

Mr. Wood is one of the large land holders of the township, owning 520 acres, all under a good state of cultivation.

Mr. Wood was married April 27, 1876, to Mrs. Caroline (Scofield) Rolf. She was born near Lockport, New York, January 9, 1832. By her first marriage she had five children, three of whom are still living, viz.: Frank W., Fred A., George E. Mrs. Wood is a mem-

ber of the Episcopal church at Austin. Mr. Wood is a man of integrity, Republican in politics, does his own thinking, and pins his faith to the sleeve of no sect or party, has a rational faith in sound morals and seeks to do as he would be done by.

District No. 44. The first school house in this district was a small log house, built for the purpose on the southeast corner of the northwest quarter of section 27. The first school was kept by Charles Oaks, in the winter of 1857-8. Charles Oaks was a brother of John P. Oaks, young men from Vermont. They came here from Winona county, and bought the south half of the southwest quarter of section 23, and the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 26. They sold out. Charles went to New Hampshire, John P. to Johnson county, Iowa.

The old log house was used for school purposes until the summer of 1866, when a brick building 21x30 was erected, at a cost of \$1,536. The new house is located near the section line on the east side of section 22. The first school in this house was kept by Romanda S. Carpenter. She was from Michigan, on a visit to her uncle Edward Bassett, of Udolpho township. She remained in the county but a year or two, when she returned to Michigan. She had an attendance of 30 scholars. Mary Miller, of Lansing village, is the present teacher. Attendance about 10.

District No. 45 was organized in 1858, and a log house 12x16 was built gratuitously by the neighbors. The house was covered with shingles made at the village of Moscow, just over in Freeborn county. The first school was kept by a Miss Richardson, of

Saint's Rest, in Windom township, in the summer of 1858. There was an attendance of about a dozen scholars. This house was used for schools until about 1868, when, it becoming unfit for use, a new frame house 20x30, was built at a cost of about \$600. Ella J. Cook had the honor of teaching the first school in this house. Miss Julia W. Richardson was the teacher for the summer term in 1884. She had an attendance of 15.

District No. 101, is a joint district, with territory lying in Red Rock township. A frame school house 18x24 was built in section 13, in the fall of 1876, at a cost of \$650. A school was held in it that winter, with Patrick Gilroy as teacher, with an attendance of 30. The summer term of 1884 was kept by Miss Jessie Simpson. She resides with her parents in Austin.

#### RELIGIOUS.

The first religious services held in Lansing township were at the house of Samuel Clayton, in 1855, by Rev. W. E. Holbrook, a Methodist minister from Iowa. Occasional services were held by him at houses in the neighborhood until 1857, when the Pettibone house was fixed up for school purposes, in which meetings were afterwards held. Rev. Mr. Phelps also held services at different houses in the neighborhood in 1856.

A class of the Methodist denomination was formed about 1855, and meetings held at houses in the neighborhood. Meetings were afterwards held at the the old Pettibone school house in District No. 43. The organization was kept up until about 1857-58, when the class was divided, a part going to Austin and a part to Lansing village, which was included in the Austin circuit. This

class was organized by Rev. W. E. Holbrook. Rev. Mr. Mapes also held services in the township at an early day.

The first services of the Lansing branch were held at the school house, the building now used by Mr. George Wood as a residence. There was a membership of about twelve. In 1856 the foundation for a brick church building was begun, and the walls well up, when they were unfortunately blown down, which added materially to the future cost of the building. Work, however, was immediately resumed, and the building completed that summer, at a total cost of about \$3,000. The house was built through the efforts of Rev. W. M. Soules, at that time in charge of the congregation. Meetings have been regularly held since. The present pastor is Rev. E. R. Lathrop.

There has been a Sabbath school in connection with the church, which still exists.

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The first services of this church in the township, were held at the house of Thomas Gibson, in section 12, in the fall of 1859. Through the efforts of Mr. A. Brown of Austin, John Digman and Thomas Gibson, the services of Father Pendergast, of Winona, were procured, who held services as above stated. He also held services during the summer of 1860. Father Reller, from Faribault, held occasional services at the house of Mr. Gibson until the fall of 1867, when Father John McDermot was located at Austin. He held occasional services in the township until the spring of 1869, when he was succeeded by Father Jennis. Members of this church in the township, now attend church at Austin.

#### BAPTIST CHURCH.

The first proceedings in the organization of this church was a meeting called by members of the church, who had settled at Lansing and vicinity, at the house of N. S. Dorwin, for the purpose of organizing a Baptist church. At this meeting Milton McCall was chosen Moderator, B. D. Sprague, Clerk. The meeting resulted in the organization of the church, at the school house in Lansing, January 19, 1862. Those who were present at this meeting were Milton McCall, Edward Bassett, B. D. Sprague, P. G. Lamoreaux, N. S. Dorwin and wife, Lou A. Sprague. Rev. M. Craven, from High Forest, helped in the organization, and preached from 1st Peter, 2nd Chapter.

The church held communion services December 21, 1862.

The first Covenant meeting was April 5, 1862.

The first baptism was April 12, 1863.

The candidates were Mrs. Julia A. McCall, Miss Betta Vaughan, and Ellen Page. The day was suitable for the occasion, being like summer.

The first minister was Rev. H. I. Parker, who had charge of the church ten years. He was succeeded by Rev. Amus Weaver, from Wisconsin, but formerly from New York. He remained with the church about three years, when he was succeeded by Rev. R. Sadick from England, who was the last regular minister, since which time they have only had occasional services. The organization is still kept up with a small attendance.

## CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

This church was organized August 23, 1867, Rev. Mr. Morse presiding. The first officers were: D. M. Evans, S. H. Smith, Deacons; George W. Robinson, Clerk.

Rev. Philo Canfield, from Albert Lea, took charge of the church October 1, 1867. After remaining six months he was relieved by Rev. Mr. Booth, he by Rev. George B. Nutting, he by Rev. J. D. Todd, he by Rev. Mr. Toby and he by Rev. Mr. Rouse, who served until 1881, since which time there has been no regular services, the members having either died or moved away.

## RAILROADS.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway company in October, 1867, built their road through the township, entering the town in section 3, passing through sections 19, 15, 14, 23, 26, 35, from which section it passes into Austin.

The Southern Minnesota Railroad was built through the township in 1869-70. The road enters the town at the southeast corner of section 13, and runs in a southwesterly direction through sections 24-23, in which latter section it forms a junction with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, and proceeds on its course through sections 22, 27, 28, 29, 31, from which section it enters Freeborn county.

## RAILWAY BOUNTY.

A special vote was taken at the general election held the 7th day of April, 1882, to vote aid to the Austin, Mankato & St. Cloud Railway Company. \$4,000 was voted, there being 71 votes in favor, to 35 against.

## MANUFACTORIES—LANSING MILL.

A steam saw mill was built at Lansing village in 1857, by A. B. Vaughan, the engine of which was hauled by teams from Wabasha, Wabasha county, Minnesota. It was run as a saw mill until 1860, when it was converted into a grist mill, and run as such about three years, when the engine was sold and taken to Osage, in Mitchell county, Iowa. In the winter of 1866-67 the building and machinery were repaired and a wind mill put up to furnish power. It was run with varied success until 1869, when the wind mill was taken down and the buhrs sold. The building was sold to L. Hawley, who removed it to his farm and converted it into a barn.

## LANSING FLOURING MILL.

Lansing Flouring Mill is located on the west bank of the Cedar, in section 2. The mill was originally built by Higley & Richards, in 1877. The building was a frame, with two run of buhrs, run by water power, furnished by a nine foot fall of the Cedar river. The building was burned in March, 1883. The site was then purchased by Simon Alverson, who rebuilt the mill on the site of the old one that summer (1883). The mill still runs and makes a good quality of flour.

## RAMSEY MILL.

This mill is located on the west bank of the Cedar river in section 23, near Ramsey Junction. Mr. Mathew Greyson, the proprietor, commenced the erection of the building and dam in October, 1872, working on the foundation and dam that winter, completing the mill the next summer in time

for the next crop. The mill was supplied with four run of buhrs, which are run by water power. Machinery has been added to the mill from time to time, until the summer of 1884, when rollers were added, and a fine grade of flour was manufactured under the roller process.

#### TURTLE CREEK CHEESE FACTORY.

A joint stock company was organized in the fall of 1874, under the laws of the State, with a capital of \$2,000. There were forty shares issued at \$50 a share. The stockholders were S. N. Frisbee, John Van House, Granville Kearn, Jerome Rodgers, Jonas Haney, A. P. McBride, Daniel E. Bero, James M. Cook, N. S. Hardy, Israel Pace, Michael Teeter, Merrick Knok, H. W. Page, Oliver Shaw, Solner & Morgan, A. Harwood, K. O. Hall. The business is under the control of a board of five directors, elected annually. The first directors were S. N. Frisbee, John Van House, Jerome Rodgers, Jonas Haney, E. McBride. The present directors are N. S. Hardy, Granville Kearns, E. B. Williams, Jonas Haney. E. P. McBride. The cheese factory building was commenced in the fall of 1874. When nearly completed it was blown down. It was immediately rebuilt. It is a two-story frame building, 26x52 feet. Cheese making commenced June 10, 1875. The cheese manufactured here is of a superior quality. It was awarded the first premium at the American Institute Fair, held in New York City in August, 1875, and the first and second premiums at Owatonna in 1883. Also first premium at the Butter and Cheese Convention of the Minnesota Dairyman's Association, held at Austin in November, 1883

This institution has been the means of changing the mode of farming from grain to stock-raising. The beneficial effects can readily be seen in the buildings and increase of stock and general prosperity of the farmers interested in the enterprise. In the season of 1883 there were 65,000 pounds of cheese made at this factory which has, since 1876, been under the management of E. B. Williams, a practical cheese maker.

#### OAKWOOD CEMETERY.

There can be no better index of a people than to observe the interest which they take in educational and religious matters, and the respect they pay their departed dead. Go to uncivilized countries and one sees no church spires pointing heavenward, no polished granite monuments rearing their snowy surfaces up from the graves of those who have gone to their last resting place—this marks civilization and refinement.

Oakwood cemetery is located on the southwest corner of the northeast quarter of section 34, and incorporated under the laws of the State March 15, 1862, under the name of "The Austin Cemetery Association." The management of the association is vested in a board of five trustees, the first of which were L. N. Griffith, Ormanzo Allen, John S. Lacy, Oliver Somers, Solomon Snow. After its incorporation, and the site for the cemetery purchased, the ladies of Austin formed a society for the purpose of obtaining funds to have the grounds fenced, which object they finally accomplished. The grounds were purchased of Henry Baudler, and lay sloping to the east, and are covered with a quantity of oak trees, from which the beautiful grounds derive their name, "*Oakwood*."

There are numerous fine monuments here and there throughout the cemetery, which stand half hidden among the oaks that adorn the place, and may be plainly seen from many points in the city. The present officers of the association are G. H. Litchfield, President; C. H. Davidson, Secretary; Trustees, C. H. Davidson, H. W. Page, L. N. Griffith, C. M. Fernald.

#### AUSTIN CEMETERY,

is a private cemetery. It is situated on land owned by William Baudler, in the southeast quarter of section 34. It was platted and filed for record in the Register of Deeds office May 30, 1879. The first burial was Ella Mabel, daughter of George and Betsy Frehn, April 30, 1881.

#### LANSING CEMETERY.

is located on the northeast corner of the northwest quarter of section 11, the ground being donated by Mr. A. B. Vaughan, and is incorporated under the laws of the State. The first burial was that of Gardner Mitchell. He was from Wisconsin, here, but formerly from Rhode Island. He was a relict of the war of 1812. He made his home with the Vaughan's until his death.

#### FIRST MARRIAGE.

The first couple to be joined in the holy bonds of wedlock, was Silas Dutcher and Mary R. Perry, which notable event took place on the 27th day of August, 1856, by Esq. Sylvester Smith of Austin. Mr. Dutcher is a native of Ranssauer county, New York, born March 9, 1834; when two years old his parents moved to Indiana, and afterwards to Dubuque county, Iowa, where they engaged in farming. In the spring of 1854 Silas came to Mower county with a

party of surveyors from Iowa, arriving at Six Mile Grove, in what is now Nevada township, May 18th. Mr. Dutcher followed surveying until October, when he returned to his home in Iowa, remaining until November, when he returned to the county and made his home with Hunter Clark until spring, spending his time getting out logs for a house, and splitting rails to improve his claim which he had taken while surveying the summer before. His father, Silas Dutcher, Sr., with a brother and sister, joined him in the spring, when they built a small log house. The father lived in the township until his death in the fall of 1872. His son (Platt) went to Wisconsin and enlisted in the 5th Wisconsin. The daughter (Francis E.) was twice married, first to Eldridge Wilcox, who died at Charles City, Minnesota. Her second husband is Charles Brownwich, an Englishman. He now runs a job printing establishment at Minneapolis.

Mrs. Dutcher died in August, 1859, leaving one child, George A. She was a sister of N. G. Perry, an old settler of the township. Mr. Dutcher was again married January 6, 1862, to Eliza A. Wilcox, a daughter of Solomon Wilcox, an old settler of Udolpho township. Mrs. Dutcher has the honor of teaching the first school in Udolpho township. Ethel K., Ralph R., are their children. Mr. Dutcher enlisted in November, 1863, in company "B," 2nd Minnesota cavalry, serving with his company, under General Sully, against the Sioux in Dakota. He received his discharge in December, 1865. Mr. Dutcher is now living at Austin.

Another early marriage in the township

was Nelson M. Wilder and Mariah H. Vaughan, which occurred January 4, 1861, Rev. H. I. Parker, a Baptist minister, officiating. Mr. Wilder died in Nebraska, where he had gone for his health, in 1880. Mrs. Wilder now lives in Otranto township, in Mitchell county, Iowa.

## FIRST BIRTH.

The first child born in Lansing township was Adeline Ruth, daughter of P. D. and Elizabeth Vaughan, which event occurred August 8, 1856. She was married December 6, 1877, to George Russell, and is mother of three children. Their home is in Chippewa county, this State.

## FIRST DEATH.

The first death was that of Daniel McPherson, a Scotchman from Canada. He was a single man and made his home with Mr. Dobbins, in section 22. While at work on the old log school house Mr. McPherson fell, by which he sustained injuries that caused his death. He died in the fall of 1857, and was buried in section 27, the exact location being lost, owing to the road passing over the grave.

## VILLAGE OF LANSING.

This village clusters around the corner stake of sections 2, 3, 10 and 11. It was surveyed and platted in 1858, by Charles Carter, for A. B. Vaughan, the proprietor. The first building on the site was a log house erected in 1855, by A. B. Vaughan for a residence. The first building for business purposes was erected by P. D. Vaughan in the fall of 1858. He rented the building to John Clark, who put in a small stock of goods. In the fall of 1859 this building was

burned. In 1860 Clark closed out the business.

## BLACKSMITH.

The first blacksmith in the village was Alfred Clough, who located here in the summer of 1857. He remained here until 1866, then returned to Wisconsin. This branch of business is now represented by Sidney Fuller, who has been here about eight years.

P. D. Vaughan opened a store in the fall of 1864, putting a small stock of general merchandise into a small building on the north side of the creek. The same fall George Wood purchased an interest in the business and they moved to more commodious quarters on the south side of the creek. In the spring of 1866 they sold to A. B. Vaughan, who continued in the business until 1868, when he closed out.

During the fall of 1867 there were two warehouses built here, one of them by a Mr. Eames, from Lake City. In 1868, Bassett, Hunting & Co. erected a warehouse, and in 1870 O. C. LaBar erected one. Wood & La Bar are the present grain buyers.

The first lumber yard was established in 1867 by Vaughan & Wood. They continued in the business until 1870, when they closed out.

## HOTEL.

The Lansing Hotel was built as a private residence by Patrick Eagan in 1860. It was first kept as a hotel by Benjamin Carll in the fall of 1864. He continued to act the part of jolly host until the spring of 1867, when his son-in-law, William Brown, took charge. In the fall of that year he was succeeded by

Chauncy Maxfield, who purchased the property. He still entertains travelers.

The village was incorporated by an act of the legislature, and approved by the Governor February 17, 1881; was witnessed by the Secretary of State March 30, 1881. By this act the village of Lansing became a separate election precinct for all purposes, provided the township and general election may be held in the village. Section 2 provided that George Wood, C. J. Ricker, and J. W. George, are designated commissioners to call an election. The first election was held at the post office March 10, 1881, and the following named officers were elected: President, W. H. White; Trustees, John Watkins, Geo. W. Williams, J. G. Vaughan; Recorder, H. McIntyre; Justice of the Peace, J. E. Robinson; Treasurer, John Bartlett; Assessor, H. Rowe; Constable, John Thompson. At this meeting John J. Guthrie was clerk, P. D. Vaughan and J. H. Watkins, judges. The officers for 1884 were as follows: President, George Wood; Trustees, A. V. Bacon, J. H. Smith, John Thompson; Recorder, H. W. McIntyre; Treasurer, W. B. Vaughan; Assessor, P. D. Vaughan; Justice of the Peace, A. V. Bacon; Constable, John Thompson. The officers for 1884, were, President, George Wood; Trustees, A. V. Bacon, J. H. Smith, John Thompson; Recorder, H. W. McIntyre; Treasurer, W. B. Vaughan; Justice of the Peace, A. V. Bacon; Constable, John Thompson; Assessor, P. D. Vaughan.

The first depot agent at Lansing was Charles Linton. He remained in the office about two years, when he went to Medford, in Steele county, Minnesota. He was succeeded by Mr. L. A. Foote, May 8, 1869,

Mr. Foote still has charge of the office. The first express agent was A. B. Vaughan, which office he held until 1872, when he was relieved of the duties of the office by Mr. L. A. Foote, who still has charge of the office.

#### LANSING POST OFFICE.

The Lansing postoffice was established in the summer of 1858, with P. D. Vaughan as postmaster. The office was kept at his house in section 3, where it remained until about 1864 or 5, when it was removed to the store building with A. B. Vaughan as postmaster. The office remained here until about 1868, when the office was moved across the street to the store building in section 11, Mr. Vaughan retaining the office. October 29, 1875, W. B. Vaughan received the appointment of postmaster, which office he still holds.

The office was created a money order office July 1st, 1878. The first order drawn was \$2.90 by P. D. Vaughan, in favor of Walter H. Shupe, of New York, dated July 1, 1878. The first order paid was for \$3.65 to Mrs. J. S. Greeley, from Mrs. Josephine Miller of Beaver Falls, Minnesota.

Warren B. Vaughan is a son of P. D. Vaughan, and was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, February 20, 1854. He came with his parents to Mower county, when one year old, where he has since lived. He received his education in the school at Lansing. When he was 21 years of age he received the appointment of postmaster of the Lansing postoffice, at the same time engaging in mercantile business, which he still follows. Mr. Vaughan is a Republican, and is the present village treas-

urer. He is also a member of the Masonic fraternity. Mr. Vaughan was married September 21, 1881, to Mrs. Harriet (Doty) Mensing, a native of Indiana.

#### PRESENT BUSINESS.

P. D. and W. B. Vaughan, general merchants. This business was commenced in the fall of 1875, by Warren B. Vaughan, when he had just received the appointment of postmaster. He put in a stock of groceries, drugs and stationery, valued at \$1,000. He conducted the business alone until the fall of 1877, when he formed a partnership with his father, P. D. Vaughan, under the above firm name. They added dry goods and hardware, and now carry a stock valued at \$3,000.

H. M. McIntyre, general merchant, commenced business in company with John Bartlett, under the firm name of Bartlett & McIntyre, in the store building known as the Weller building. In November, 1880, Mr. McIntyre purchased his partner's interest, and has conducted the business alone since that time, and is doing a good business.

Harvey M. McIntyre was born in the town of Saranac, Clinton county, New York, March 6, 1849. He is the son of Hosea and Harriett (Morrison) McIntyre; the father a native of Vermont, the mother of New York, and are still residents of Clinton county. They are parents of seven children, Harry M., the subject of this sketch, being the fifth child. He remained at home until 16 years of age, when he commenced clerking in a store at Saranac, where he remained three years, when he went to Illinois and spent the winter near Chicago, and spent one year at Utica, LaSalle county, from there he went

to Helena, Iowa county, Wisconsin, remaining there until the spring of 1873, when he came to Lansing, Mower county, Minnesota, and engaged in company with John Bartlett in the mercantile trade. In 1880 Mr. McIntyre purchased the interests of Mr. Bartlett, since which time he has carried on the business. Mr. McIntyre received a common school education; is a Republican, and in 1876 elected town clerk, which office he held until the village of Lansing was incorporated, when he was elected recorder, which office he still holds. Mr. McIntyre was married at Helena, Iowa county, Wisconsin, August 20, 1873, to Ada C. Saxton. She was born May 3, 1854. They have had four children, Herbert E., deceased, Albert H., deceased, Clarence H. and Harry S.

Mrs. McIntyre is a member of the Congregational church. Mr. McIntyre is a member of the Masonic fraternity at Lansing.

#### LANSING LODGE NO. 72, A. F. AND A. M.

An informal meeting was held at the school house, and a petition sent to the W. G. M. of the grand lodge of Minnesota, signed by the following named: W. L. Hollister, P. D. Vaughan, George W. Robinson, J. F. Smith, William M. Evans, John McCall, J. W. George, T. B. Morrill, A. B. Vaughan, S. R. Gunn, J. B. Graves, E. J. Stimson—asking that a dispensation be granted. On the 10th day of April, 1868, a dispensation was received. W. L. Hollister was appointed W. M.; P. D. Vaughan, S. W.; George W. Robinson, J. W.

The first meeting was held at Willis hall, April 13, 1868. A charter was granted January 4, 1869, and the following members

elected: W. L. Hollister, W. M.; P. D. Vaughan, S. W.; G. W. Robinson, J. W.; J. F. Smith, T.; A. B. Vaughan, S.

Since the organization the worthy masters have been as follows: P. D. Vaughan, L. Hawley, Jr., J. W. George. The officers for 1884 were: P. D. Vaughan, W. M.; H. M. McIntyre, S. W.; John Thompson, J. W.; R. A. Carll, T.; W. B. Vaughan, S.

The lodge is in a good condition, financially. They own the building where their meetings are held. The present membership is fifteen. There has been but two deaths in the lodge—A. B. Vaughan and Daniel Edwards.

#### PHYSICIANS.

Those of this profession to hang out their shingles at Lansing were Josef Alloys, R. Soule, A. Doceor Layfayette, W. L. Hollister, of whom a fuller account will be given in the medical chapter.

#### MANUFACTURING.

Foote, Kimble & Co., manufacturers of Foote's Combination Car Seal, and Seal Cutter and extractor. L. A. Foote, of Lansing, is the inventor of these machines. The patent bears date of February 28, 1882. In March, 1882, Mr. Foote, in company with his brother, H. M. Foote, commenced to manufacture these machines in a small building near the depot. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway were the first to use these seals. Their first order was given about May 1, 1882. In June, 1883, F. W. Kimball, Assistant Chief Engineer, of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company, purchased the interest of H. M. Foote, and the business was enlarged. They

first commenced in a small building near the depot. At first they could make but one dozen punches per day. In 1884, the capacity had increased to six dozen per day. In June they commenced the manufacture of car seals, which they turned at the rate of 40,000 per day. The machinery is run by a five-horse power steam engine. The business has increased steadily from the start.

Lewis A. Foote, railroad agent at Lansing, was born in Potsdam, St. Lawrence county, New York, March 21st, 1838, where he grew to manhood and received his education. He learned telegraphy, and when seventeen years of age took charge of the office in connection with the express business, serving three years. In 1858 Mr. Foote went to New Haven, Connecticut, where he engaged as clerk in the Merchants hotel, and the Bradford Point House at Bradford Point, remaining till the fall of 1859, when in company with his brother Charles, traveled over the southern states, which was just previous to the outbreak of the rebellion. They were taken prisoners at Painted Post, Tennessee, but released after being held ten days, after which they turned their faces northward, arriving at Cleveland, Ohio, about the 1st of May. Charles returned to his home in New York, and Lewis enlisted the last of the month, in company B., Seventh Ohio Infantry Volunteers, for three months. The company was sent to Camp Dennison, near Cincinnati, where they remained until their three months had expired, when he was discharged with the company. He immediately re-enlisted in Company "A" Sixth Ohio Infantry, serving until February 3rd, 1863, when he received his discharge,

by reason of general disability contracted in the army, from the effect of which he draws a pension. He participated with his company in the battle of Pittsburg Landing, besides other skirmishes. On receiving his discharge Mr. Foote returned to his home in New York, where he remained that summer, when he went to Watertown, New York, in the ticket office of the Watertown and Ogdensburgh railway company at Rome. After remaining here a short time went to Malone in the employ of the Telegraph and Express companies, as express agent and telegraph operator, where he remained three years, when his health failing, went to lumbering with his father, following the business until March 1st, 1869, when he came to Minnesota and was employed as telegraph operator at LeRoy, and in May came to Lansing and took charge of the railroad office, which position he still holds. Mr. Foote is a member of the Masonic society at Lansing. Mr. Foote was married February 7th, 1864, to Augusta E. Austin. She was born in 1844 in St. Lawrence county, New York. They have one child, Mark A. Mrs. Foote is a member of the Congregational church.

#### RAMSEY JUNCTION.

The first depot agent at Ramsey, was Harvey Coleman, who came the year the railroad was built. He remained in charge of the office five years, when he was succeeded by Joseph Galliger, who remained about seven years. He was succeeded by a Mr. Rowley, who was killed by the cars in August, 1883. Mr. Barnes took his place, which position he still holds.

#### RAILWAY EATING HOUSE,

at Ramsey was built in the summer of 1871, by John Fogarty. It is a frame building 40x40. Trains of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company stop here for meals.

John Fogarty, was born in County Tipperary, in 1830. His mother died in Ireland when he was about four years old. In 1844 he came to the United States with his father, and lived at Syracuse, New York, remaining until 1855, when he came to Scott county, Minnesota, where he resided until 1868, when he went to St. Paul, remaining two years, when he came to Mower county, and erected the first eating house at Ramsey Junction, where he has since resided. Mr. Fogarty was married March 28, 1852, to Mary Ann Welsh. She was born in Waterford, Ireland, May 12, 1831. She came to the United States in 1849, stopping at Syracuse, afterward going to Oswego, where they lived two years before coming to Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Fogarty are parents of four children, Ellen, Anna, John Thomas, Cornelius Edward. Mr. Fogarty has been engaged principally in railroad work since coming to the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Fogarty are members of the Catholic Church. Ellen is the wife of Eugene Sullivan, a native of Ireland. They reside with Mr. Fogarty. They have four children, Mary Alice, Teress Erin, Edward Eugene, and Margaret Ann. They were married at Austin, May 27, 1871. Mr. Fogarty's was the first Irish family to settle at Shakopee.

#### HARRIS EATING HOUSE.

The Harris Eating House was first started by Mr. Irish, who erected the building

for a saloon when the railroad was built. He ran it in that capacity until 1869, when the building remained vacant until the fall of 1871, when John Kent bought the building, and converted it into a restaurant, running it as such until 1881, when he rented the building to Henry Fairbanks. He ran it as a hotel one year, when

Mr. Kent sold the building to a man named Harris.

GROCERY.

John Kent commenced his present business in October, 1882, in a frame building, 22x36. The building is located west of the section line between sections 22 and 23, just north of the railroad. He keeps a stock of groceries confectionery, etc

## CHAPTER XXV.

### LE ROY TOWNSHIP.

This is the southeast corner township of Mower county, and comprises congressional township 101 north, range 14 west. It is bounded on the north by Bennington township, on the east by Fillmore county, on the south by Howard county in Iowa, and on the west by Lodi township.

The general surface of the township is undulating prairie land, the soil of which is a dark rich loam, with sand enough in its composition to make it one of the most productive in the entire county. Along the streams for a considerable distance back there is a lime stone base, with somewhat of a lighter soil, but none too much so for the production of abundant crops. The whole township is, by nature and formation, calculated for successful farming. All the grains and grasses grow in all their luxuriance.

The principal water courses of the town-

ship are the Little Iowa, with its "north branch." The former enters the township on section 19, passing across the northeast quarter of section 30, on through sections 29, 28, 27, thence across the northeast portion of sections 34 and 35 to section 36, from which section it flows into Howard county, Iowa, and so on down to the Mississippi river. The "north branch" of this stream drains the northern and central parts of the township and makes a confluence with the main stream on section 28.

Another ever flowing stream, courses through sections 30 and 31. This is known as Spring Creek, and enters the Iowa river from section 30. There are also numerous cold, pure springs gushing to the surface in various parts of the township. They make their appearance nearly on a level with the waters of the Iowa river and usually become

covered by the river waters at its high stages. One peculiarly striking and valuable spring bubbles up from the earth on the northwest quarter of section 29, near W. B. Spencer's house, and is used by him for domestic and stock purposes. This is a strong mineral spring, partaking of iron. The township is amply supplied with the best of building stone. It is the best quality of lime stone which is near the surface, in ledges ranging from four to eighteen inches in thickness, and extending nearly a mile back from the streams. From this stone the best of lime is burned.

This township contains more timber land than any other within Mower county. It is principally on sections 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 33 and 34. In kind it is chiefly the oak species—red, white, black and burr oak, with some maple, basswood and poplar. There is a large tract, confined mostly to sections 25, 26, 27, 35 and 36, which is underlaid with lime rock, over which grows shrubs and hazel brush. There are many natural groves with immense quantities of wild plums, crab apple and other wild fruit trees, which have been of great benefit to the settlers, as they have yielded choice fruits of their kind. At an early day these were thwarted in their growth by the annual prairie fires which swept through them; but since the country has settled, the owners have thrown every possible protection around them, in way of fire guards, until to-day they have grown to quite forests, and lend a beauty to the landscape, which is indeed charming. In addition to these native grown groves there are those planted by the industrious hand of the sturdy pioneer—the artificial groves of cot-

tonwood, soft maple and poplar, which bedeck the once bleak prairies. These afford shade and beauty in mid summer, and serve as a great storm protection during the long winter months. As one pioneer remarked, "These are monuments of common sense, erected by the early settlers."

In this, as well as all other counties in this part of the State and the northern part of Iowa, the first decade the farmers turned their attention to wheat growing, which proved to be unprofitable, and in some cases financially ruined the men thus engaged. During the first years of the civil war, the grain had to be carted to McGregor before it could be marketed, as there was no railroad nearer at that time. To illustrate the cheapness of this commodity and the hardship which the farmer had to go through with in those days, a single case may here be given. LeRoy was not found wanting in patriotism and loyalty, when the dark war cloud hovered over the country; and in keeping with the times, she wanted to fit out a military company and a band which could furnish music. Good enough musicians tendered their services, but no *cash* could be found with which to procure drum and fife. But where there is a will there surely must be a way, so the citizens donated a certain amount of grain apiece. This had to be hauled to McGregor, a distance of *ninety* miles, and sold. The price for drawing it to that point was twenty-five cents per bushel, and parties were engaged to do the work. Upon arriving there with their wheat, the market price was only *twenty-seven* cents, which left the handsome(?) sum of *two* cents per bushel with which to buy musical instru-

ments, but they were bought. During these long journeys to market with grain, the farmers suffered many times from severe weather, having to lodge themselves beneath their wagon box, as the hotel bills would take all their scanty profits. We think of the driving, blinding, snow storms, of the half frozen men, and tired teams of oxen and horses, and of all these first settlers had to submit to, and then we turn with triumphant spirit to these times, when up through these days of privations and sacrificing, have been built the net work of railroads, the market places, etc. We see the massive stone butments on either side of a stream, whose angry waters once had to be forded by the pioneer. Now these streams are spanned from shore to shore by iron bridges, suspended high in mid air, and are but links as it were, to a royal highway. How changed the whole scene! The farmer has now found a better way—he is engaged specially in corn and stock growing. In 1884, there was perhaps no section of Minnesota or the great northwest, that could boast of as fine a township as LeRoy. It was stocked with large numbers of blooded stock. The Short Horn, Hereford, and Holstein cattle grazed throughout its borders; Clydesdale and Norman horses pranced in their beauty and strength, and the bleating of large flocks of Merino, South Down, and Cottswold sheep could have been heard.

#### SETTLEMENT.

The beginning of settlement in this township dates back to 1853, when Isaac Van Houghton, George Squires, J. S. Priest, Moses Niles and Isaac Armstrong, came to a county all untried by white men, and here set about making homes for themselves.

Van Houghton came with the State line surveyors in 1851. He was pleased with the county and its future prospects, concluded to claim lands and also induced the other members of the party just mentioned, to come and seek a home with him. They all came from the same neighborhood, near Lansing, Iowa.

Van Houghton claimed the southeast quarter of section 36, and Squires the northwest quarter of the same section. This, however, was prior to the subdivision of land into sections and when it came to be thus surveyed it was found their lands were on the school section, and as they could not prove up on it, Van Houghton sold his claim improvements in June, 1854, to Fayette Lincoln, and at once returned to Iowa, remained a few years and from there moved to Michigan, where he has since died.

Squires sold his claim to Daniel Caswell in 1855, and soon after moved to Owatonna, where he remained till 1859, and then moved to California.

Niles and Priest claimed the southeast half of section 35. They also disposed of their lands before the war broke out. Niles moved to Anoka county and Priest to Nebraska, where he was killed in a well. Armstrong claimed the west half of section 33. In 1854 he sold to William Gilson and went to Steele county. In 1858 he returned to this county, lived a year and then moved to Buchanan county, Iowa. He served in the Union army, and while in the service died.

In June, 1854, Fayette Lincoln, a native of Vermont, came from Dane county, Wisconsin, and bought Van Houghton's claim. He erected a frame house—the first in the

township—broke forty acres and lived thereon till 1856, when he sold to James W. Prentice, and moved over the line into Howard county, Iowa, where he was still living in 1884. Prentice was a native of Vermont, but came from Postville, Iowa, to this township. He died prior to 1882.

During the same year, 1854, George and John Britt, Samuel Bacon, P. H. Stevens, Moses Vargason and Wentworth Hayes came in to swell the already fair-sized colony of pioneers. The Britts were from Indiana. George claimed the northwest quarter of section 19, where he built a log cabin and broke about ten acres of land. In 1855 he sold to P. F. Huntly and made a claim on section 20, which he sold the following autumn to A. D. Parks. He moved to Chain Lake, Iowa, at which point he had trouble with the Indians, and by whom he was shot and badly wounded. Later, he moved to his native State.

Vargason was a native of Pennsylvania, coming from Waukon, Iowa, to this place. He pre-empted the west half of the southeast quarter of section 33. He lived there about ten years, then sold out and bought land on section 35, on which place he died in 1879.

Hayes was from the "Granite State." He pre-empted the north half of the southeast quarter of section 29, and west half of the southwest quarter of section 28. In 1884 he was in trade at LeRoy.

The winter of 1854 having come and gone and the spring of 1855 far advanced, there were others who made settlement. Among this number were A. J. Palmer, Nathan McNeil, Ziba B. Dailey, Lester Congdon, David

Allen, LeGrand Johnson, J. C. Jones, W. B. Spencer, James Sample, P. F. Huntly, John Frank, A. D. Park, Henry Edmonds, Joseph Lytle, Sylvester McArthur, Ed. Whitcomb, Daniel Caswell, James Story, E. F. McKee, Reuben Allen.

McNeil came from Illinois, but by nativity was a Canadian. He pre-empted the northwest quarter of section 34, which is the land upon which the village of LeRoy now stands. He was of a restless nature and hence never stopped long in one place. In 1857 he sold out and moved to Howard county, Iowa. Later, he moved to Dakota.

Dailey was a native of the "Keystone" State, coming from Boone county, Indiana, to this township, settling on section 34, where he still lived in 1884.

Congdon came from Belvidere, Illinois, and located on the southeast quarter of section 28, where he lived some years, but later moved to Bradford, Bremer county, Iowa.

Park was a representative of the old "Empire" State. He settled on section 20, where he remained in 1884.

Lytle came from Pennsylvania, settling on the southeast of section 17. In 1864 he sold out and moved to Nebraska.

Ziba B. Daily is a native of Pennsylvania, born in the town of North Morland, in what is now Wyoming county. His grandparents were natives of Rhode Island. His grandfather was a soldier in the revolutionary war, and for services rendered received a grant of land in Pennsylvania. When the subject of our sketch was seventeen years of age, he engaged with a tanner to learn the trade, at which he worked till 1852, when he moved to Boone county, Indiana. In 1855

he again started west, going by rail to Galena, thence by boat to Lansing, Iowa, then overland to Waukon, Iowa. In the summer of that year he started for Minnesota to find a suitable place to locate. He staged as far as Conemura, Fillmore county, thence on foot to Chatfield then via stage to Rochester. After looking around that section of country he walked to the landoffice at Brownsville. He then returned to Waukon, and in September came to Mower county, and entered a claim in section 34, town 101 north, range 14 west, now known as the town of LeRoy. The land was mostly covered with grubs. The first winter he spent with Mr. Armstrong, who lived near. The following spring he built a log house on his claim, in which he lived till 1860. During this time he had done a great amount of hard work.

With the failure of crops he had become embarrassed and concluded to return to Indiana. With a pair of oxen and a wagon they made the trip to Boone county, where they remained one year. He worked at his trade as a tanner until 1861, when they returned to Mower county. In the following year he erected a large log house and lived in it till 1883, when he built a frame house. He now has about seventy acres of his land in a good state of cultivation. He has one of the finest natural groves in the county. It contains about fifty acres of thrifty young timber. He was joined in marriage in August, 1855 to Jane C. Vageson. She was born in Sharon, Michigan. Nine children blessed this union, all boys, whose names are Daniel Z., George J., John F., Lewis M., Charles M., Willie E., Milton, Otis H., David M.

Mr. Daily has been prominently identified with the affairs of the town. He was a member of the first board of supervisors, and has since held various offices in the town.

Elijah F. McKee was born in the town of Greenwood, Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, September 5, 1828. When he was six years of age his parents moved to Blair county and lived there three years. They then moved to Clearfield county. When the subject of our sketch was 16 years old, he returned to Blair county and commenced to learn the blacksmith trade. He served three and one half years and then did journey work until 1853, when he started west and located at Belvidere, Illinois, where he was employed ironing wagons for Hiram Bidwell, remaining there until 1855. In February, 1855, he, in company with Daniel and Timothy Caswell, started for Mower county. An account of their journey is found elsewhere.

Mr. McKee was a single man at the time, and in the employ of Mr. Caswell. They started the first blacksmith shop in Mower county, there being no other shop for a long distance, people used to come a distance of thirty miles to have their work done. In 1855 he moved to the village of LeRoy and opened the first blacksmith shop in that place and there remained until the new town was started, when he moved there and started a hardware store and continued in that business a few years and then started a blacksmith shop. His son, Harrison, is associated with him. They do shoeing and general repairing, and they deal extensively in agricultural implements. He was married July 2, 1857, to Mary E. Taylor. She was born

in Ithaca, New York. They are the parents of five children, Harrison G., Clark, Frank, Margaret and Linnie. Mr. McKee has been repeatedly elected to offices of trust in the town.

Adanson D. Park, an early settler in Mower county, was born in the town of Preston, Chenango county, New York, February 19, 1820. When he was 18 years of age his parents emigrated to Ohio. It was in the winter time and the journey was made with sleighs, a distance of 500 miles. They settled in that part of Lorain now known as Ashland county. There he made his home with his parents until 1844, when he was married in November of that year to Mary Elizabeth Stiles. She was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, in December, 1819. He purchased forty acres of land in Ashland county, built a house and lived there three years; then sold out and moved to Summit county and lived two years, then emigrated to Iowa and lived two years in Jackson county. He then entered land in Clinton county and lived there until 1855, when he sold and came to Mower county, pre-empted land in section 20, town 101 north, range 14 west, now known as the town of LeRoy, where he has since made his home. Mrs. Park died January 6, 1883. Three children were born to them, only one of which is now living, Martha A.

As shown by the records Mr. Park entered the first land from the government in LeRoy township.

Johnson was a native of Pennsylvania also. He pre-empted land on the southwest quarter of section 35. He died there the summer of 1861. Later, his family moved to Otter Tail county.

Spencer, another Pennsylvanian, located on a claim bought from John Britt, on sections 20 and 29. Later he pre-empted the land he was living on in 1884.

James Sample, Sr., a native of Canada, came from Illinois to Mower county, and made a claim on section 6, which he sold a year or two later to Elihue Morse, after which he made another claim in Fillmore county, where he died.

Frank is a native of Germany, born at Frankfort-on-the-Main. He came on in 1855, but did not make an actual settlement until 1856, when he bought the northwest quarter of section 30, where he still lives.

Huntley was formerly from New York, coming from Iowa here, and buying a claim of George Britt on section 19, upon which he still lives.

Palmer was also from the "Empire" State. He came in the month of June and pre-empted the northeast quarter of section 34. For a time he lived in the old village of LeRoy, where he had an interest in the mill. In 1884 he was occupying the old homestead.

Jones was a practicing physician—the first to settle in the township. He pre-empted 120 acres on the northeast quarter of section 29. It was nearly all timber land. He built a log house, cultivated a garden spot and remained till 1857, when he sold out and located on section 8, where his mother had pre-empted land. In 1865 he sold to J. R. Mason and moved to Missouri. His wife was also a physician.

Allen was another representative from New York; he was a grand nephew of Ethan Allen. He had been brought up on the front-

ier, being a pioneer in Canada, Michigan, and Illinois. He was a great hunter, and accounted an excellent shot. As the county was fast settling up he became restless, and in 1859 sold and with the family went to California.

Edmonds had settled in Fillmore county in 1854. He bought the water power and adjacent land of Henry Stevens, who pre-empted it and had erected a saw mill. He sold to Palmer, Caswell & Shook, and returned to his farm in Fillmore county, four miles east of the present village of LeRoy.

Edward Whitcomb came from Wisconsin, and pre-empted 120 acres on section 21, and later moved to section 31, where he died in 1883.

In 1856, F. Bevier, Lewis Mathews, Horace Barber, Isaac Smith, J. M. Wyckoff, A. J. Porter, Elder Tabor, N. P. Todd, Elishue Morse, George Clapper, Samuel Hale, W. A. Gilson, Chas. Bell, Albert Estlie and many others came in for settlement.

Morse was from Connecticut, coming here from Indiana and settled on the northwest quarter of section 6, and was the first settler in the northern part of the township. In 1884 he was with his son on the old homestead.

Charles Bell came from Indiana in the month of June, and claimed the northeast quarter of section 19. He sold this place in 1861 and now lives on section 17.

Bevier was from New York. He pre-empted the east half of the southwest quarter of section 27, and the west half of the southeast quarter of that section. He still resides on the same land.

Mathews was also a native of New York,

but immigrated from Rock county, Wisconsin. He first settled at the old town of LeRoy, where he bought an interest in the mill property on section 26. He was a wide-awake and enterprising man, lived in the town about ten years, then sold and moved to Montour, Tama county, Iowa, where he engaged in banking and merchandising.

Franklin Bevier, one of the pioneers of LeRoy, was born at Binghamton, New York, December 15, 1805. His grandfather on his mother's side, Capt. Joseph Leonard, was a native of Connecticut, and his grandmother a native of Vermont, and were pioneers in Broome county. His father was a native of Holland, came to America when quite young.

When the subject of our sketch was 17 years of age his father died; the care of the family devolved on him. Previous to this he had partly learned the blacksmith trade, and soon after engaged at that work with his brother, and remained a resident of Broome county until 1843, then went to Illinois and lived there three years, then went to Wisconsin and settled near the present site of Evansville, Rock county.

He bought land and erected a frame house, which he opened as a tavern. It was before the days of railroading. The tavern was on the Sugar River road, from Mineral Point to Janesville, a road much traveled at the time. He managed this tavern under the name of the Prairie House, in company with his brother, until 1854, then sold and moved to Green county and located in the town of Exeter, and remained there two years. In 1856, with his family, started for Minnesota. After eleven days travel they

arrived in town 101, range 14 west, now known as the town of LeRoy, where he purchased a claim and pre-empted the land. His improvements are of a substantial character. A stone house and a frame barn greet the eye of the passer by.

He was joined in marriage to Sarah Cole in 1845. She was born in the town of Coventry, April 6th, 1820. They had eight children named Joseph S., Frederick G., Polly, Araminta, Franklin J., Henrietta E., Harriett A. Theodore died at three years of age, Flora, in infancy.

Elihu Morse, the first settler in the north part of LeRoy township, is a native of Connecticut, born in the town and county of Litchfield, October 14, 1803, and was there reared among agricultural pursuits. When he was 24 years of age he left home and went to New York State, where he located. He was married in 1828 to Mary Stodard. She was born in the town of Camden, Oneida county, New York, May 26, 1809. They lived in New York State until 1848, then emigrated to Whitley county, Indiana, and remained a short time, then moved to Koskiosco county and stayed until 1856. They then started for Minnesota with horse and ox teams; after eight weeks travel they arrived in Mower county. He entered the northwest quarter of section 6, town 101 north, range 14 west, now known as the town of LeRoy. He drove stakes in the ground and placed the wagon boxes on them and lived under this shelter until fall. He then erected a log house with a stone fireplace with the chimney on the outside. During the following winter he drew his provisions on a hand-sled from Frankford, a

small Indian trading post, a distance of thirteen miles. He improved his farm and made his home here until 1876, when he sold to his son, Samuel E. He then purchased a place near the old village of LeRoy, and lived there until 1883, when he and his wife returned to the old homestead to live with their son. There were nine children born to this couple, five of whom are now living, named Mary M., Ann, Bailey, Samuel E. and Nancy.

The youngest son, Samuel E., who now owns and occupies the homestead, was born in the town of Lee, Oneida county, New York, April 8, 1843. He was but 13 years of age when his parents settled in LeRoy, where he grew to manhood. He enlisted December 16, 1861, in Company K, Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and went south and participated in the many important battles in which the regiment was engaged. He remained until the close of the war and was discharged with the regiment July 16, 1865, when he returned home and resumed farming. He was married in April, 1865, to Julia A. Bacon, a daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Bowen) Bacon, pioneers in Mower county. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Morse are the parents of five children, Mabel E., Marion B., Milton A., Melvin E. and Miron. His brother, Bailey, enlisted in the same company with himself. He was severely wounded at the battle of Iuka, but as soon as able he rejoined his regiment, and at the expiration of his term of service he tried to re enlist, but on account of his wound was rejected by the examining surgeon. He now lives in Otter Tail county.

Charles Bell is a native of Indiana, born in

Henry county, Feb. 5, 1827. His father, William Bell, was a native of Tennessee, but reared in Kentucky. Was one of the first settlers of Henry county, where he took government land, cleared a farm and made his home until death. Here in the new settlement, the subject of our sketch grew to manhood. Was joined in marriage in 1848, to Mary Zvok. He rented a farm for two years, then went to the old homestead and managed that until 1856, then with a team started for Minnesota, arriving after twenty-six days' travel. He spent the first two months with A. D. Parks. During that time he erected a log house on land he had entered on the northeast of section 19. He lived in the log house till 1863, then sold, went to the Frank farm. He enlisted December 25, 1863, in Brackett's Battalion. Went to the Western frontier in pursuit of Indians. Served with the Battalion until their discharge, May 18, 1866. While he was away his wife had bought a residence in section 29. They lived there until 1867, when he bought the south half of the northeast quarter of section 17. He has planted a grove and improved the most of the land. He has since bought the northern half of the same quarter, and now has 240 acres in a body. Mrs. Bell died November 9, 1875, leaving six children, named Elizabeth, Josephine, Ellen, Stephen D., Charles and Cora. Mr. Bell again married November 1, 1878, to Mrs. Jennie Hurlburt. They have one child, named Maud. Mrs. Bell was born in New York, June 16, 1845. Her parents emigrated to Wisconsin, when she was 9 years of age. She married January 1, 1863, to John Cox, in the town of Union, Rock

county, Wisconsin. Mr. Cox died in 1870, leaving one child, named Viola. She was again united in marriage in 1873, with Miles Hurlburt, from whom she was divorced. She came to Minnesota in 1875.

Lewis Matthews one of the first and most enterprising settlers of the town, was born in Green county, New York, in 1827, and raised a farmer. He was married to Miss Elizabeth B. Hubbard, a very estimable lady, in 1849, and came to Wisconsin the same year, and engaged in farming near Watertown, in that state, from which place he came to LeRoy, Mower county, Minnesota, in the spring of 1856, and pre-empted the southeast quarter of section 16. In 1856 Mr. Matthews bought of Martin L. Shook one-third interest in the Mill Company, and became one of the firm of Palmer, Caswell & Matthews, known as the Mill Company of the Village of LeRoy. He built a commodious dwelling in the village in 1857, in which year the Mill Company divided their interest, Caswell taking all the Company property west of the river, Palmer and Matthews all on the east side including the mill and the water power. They laid out and platted Palmer & Matthews' Addition to the village of LeRoy, in 1857, and changed the saw mill into a grist mill which in 1861, was the first and only saw mill in the town. Mr. Matthews lost his dwelling by fire in March, 1864, and built a dwelling the same spring. He was one of the parties instrumental in procuring the first Presbyterian preaching in the town, and was first in every enterprise calculated to build up the settlement. But companies traveled too slow for him; he must be sole comman-

der and controller of himself and capital. He sold to his partner, A. J. Palmer, in 1865, and now resides at Montour, Tama county, Iowa, and is principal owner of the Montour Exchange Bank, and well to do in this world's goods.

Smith was a native of Maine. He pre-empted the south half of section 19. He was a man finely educated and a teacher. In 1870 he moved to Dodge county, Minnesota and still later to Mapleton Blue Earth Co. He represented that county in the legislature at one time. He was ordained a Free Will Baptist minister while there. He died in the fall of 1882, leaving one son and four daughters. Three of the daughters are graduates and teachers.

Barber was a native of Vermont, coming here from Illinois, settling on section 35. He was a single man at the time, but married in 1858. He died about 1878.

Wyckoff and Todd were both natives of New Jersey, and came directly to Minnesota. The former settled on the northeast quarter of section 30, where he lived till 1862. His personal sketch will be found in the representative chapter.

Todd settled on the southwest quarter of section 30. In 1859 he returned to his native state where he now lives.

Gilson was a native of Albany, New York. He went back to that state in a year or two and married. He pre-empted the east half of the southwest and east half of the northwest quarter of section 33. He lived there till 1857 and built a house and store in the old town of LeRoy, where he engaged in the mercantile business. In 1884 he resided at

Minneapolis, engaged in real estate and loan business.

Elder John Tabor, of the Methodist denomination, was a native of England. He settled on section 10, where he lived two years. In 1883 he moved to New Mexico, to a point about forty miles from Trinidad, where his son lives. Too much cannot be said in praise of this pioneer of the township. Perhaps there was never a more devoted and exemplary Christian man lived in any part of the world. He was one of the few good mortals we find on life's pilgrimage, who make friends wherever they go, because of their good deeds, kind words and self-sacrificing lives. Such noble men are indeed the "salt of the earth."

Among others who came in 1857 were Justus Nason, Elias Gardner, George Emery, C. H. Cotton, W. H. Graham, Robert Hedafint and Rudolph Miller; also Caleb Lewis and Charles Smith.

Nason was a native of New Hampshire, coming from Boone county, Illinois, settling on section 13. In 1884 he lived at the old town of LeRoy.

Gardner came from Illinois, settling on section 26. In the time of the civil war he sold and returned to that State.

Emery, a native of Massachusetts, settled on the southeast quarter of section 13 and lived there about two years, when he returned to the East.

C. H. and T. W. Cotton, brothers, were formerly from New York, but came here from Illinois. The former pre-empted the north half of the south half of section 23, where he still resides. T. W., his brother, entered the northwest of section 24. A few

years later he sold out and moved to Fari-bault county.

Hale, an Englishman by birth, came from Illinois and settled on the northeast of section 9, where he still lives.

Graham and Hedafint, both came from Ireland. The first named settled on the northeast of section 23, and later moved to St. Louis. Hedafint settled on section 14, and in 1884 lived at Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Miller, a native of Switzerland, settled on the southeast quarter of section 12. Later he moved across the line into Beaver township, Fillmore county, and is now a prosperous farmer.

Caleb Lewis also came that year, from Indiana and bought Mr. Jennings out on section 7. He built the first brick farm house in LeRoy township.

During the year 1857, the first Norwegian settlements in the town were made by E. Burns and Soren Engelson. The former claimed the southwest quarter of section 10, and the later the southeast of the same section. They built a shanty of poles, which they roofed with sod and grass. The shanty was placed on the line, so as to cover both claims. After proving up on these claims they returned to Illinois. In 1858 Burns returned and settled on his land. He was a resident of the town until 1867, when he moved to Winona.

Soren Engelson, the pioneer Norwegian of the town of LeRoy, was born in Norway December 14, 1829. He attended school until he was sixteen years old. He then engaged in farming. The first day of May, 1854, he left his native land for America, and after a stormy voyage landed at Quebec.

He went directly to Illinois, LaSalle county, where he remained three years, engaged in farming. In 1857, in company with a brother-in-law, started to find a home in Minnesota. They came to Dunleith on the cars, and then took a boat to Brownsville, and from there came on foot to Mower county. They passed through LeRoy township to Adams, where they bought a pair of steers, then returned and selected a claim in LeRoy township, his brother-in-law taking a claim adjoining him, and they built a shanty of poles and sod on the line, so that it would do for both claims. They remained long enough to prove up and then returned to Illinois. The subject of our sketch was married in 1860, to Martha Fuglesteen, also a native of Norway. In the spring of 1861, they started for their new home. He left his wife at McGregor, and came on foot to LeRoy, where he bought a pair of oxen, and returned for his wife. He first built a good log house, and lived in that for a number of years. He now has a large frame house, situated beside a fine natural grove. He has also built a large frame barn and granary. He is now engaged in raising stock, and pays particular attention to the dairy. Mr. and Mrs. Engelson have two children, Emily B., and Samuel B.

In 1858, Aling Thompson and Andrew Larson, came. Thompson settled in section 3, but later moved to section 10, where he now resides. Larson first settled on section 3. He afterward moved to section 22, where he has since died. Ole Knudsen Sterlay came later in the same year, and claimed the northwest quarter of section one. He was still living in 1884.

## FIRST EVENTS.

John Van Houghton and J. S. Priest were the first to settle in the township. They came in 1854. For details concerning these men see Early Settlement.

The first log house was raised in the spring of 1853, on the north bank of the Iowa river, on the west half of the southwest quarter of section 36, by John S. Priest.

The first child born in the township was Ottis T. Caswell, born early in 1856.

The first marriage was that of Isaac Van Houghton and Miss Armstrong, sister of Isaac Armstrong. This took place in the spring of 1853. As this was prior to the county being organized, there was no Justice of the Peace by whom the marriage ceremony could be performed, consequently they went over the Iowa State line into Oakdale township, Howard county, and there under an oak tree, on the northwest quarter of section 11, township 100, range 14, the marriage rite was performed.

The first death was a son of Fayette Lincoln, in the winter of 1856. He was frozen to death.

## ORGANIZATION.

The township of LeRoy was organized at a meeting held at Daniel Caswell's, May 11, 1858. John D. Cowles was chosen moderator and Enos A. Hall clerk of the meeting.

The following were the first officers elected :  
N. P. Todd, Clerk.

Charles Smith, Assessor.

A. J. Porter, Collector.

George W. Bishop, Ziba B. Daily, William B. Spencer, Supervisors.

B. Wakefield and P. C. Sheffield, Justices of the Peace.

A. J. Porter and Winslow Raymond, Constables.

Daniel Caswell, Overseer of Roads.

In November, the same year, B. Wakefield resigned as Justice of the peace and John D. Cowles was appointed to succeed him. G. W. Bishop also resigned as chairman of the board, and Isaac Smith was appointed to fill the vacancy.

At the first township meeting the following resolutions were passed :

*Resolved*, That \$125 be raised to defray the expenses of the township for the ensuing year.

*Resolved*, That swine be not allowed to run at large at any season of the year.

*Resolved*, That sheep be not allowed to run at large.

*Resolved*, That a lawful fence shall consist of not less than one four and one half feet high, containing not less than three rails or boards to each panel.

*Resolved*, That all horses and cattle not known to be breechy are allowed to run at large.

Among those who have held township offices, besides those at the first meeting, may be mentioned : J. M. Wyckoff, Elias Gardner, J. C. Jones, William A. Gibson, Lester Congdon, T. P. Ropes, James Grant, James M. Mason, C. H. Cotton, E. F. McKee, J. T. Williams, G. M. Alsdorff and C. A. Roy.

The officers serving in July, 1884, were :

Adelbert Folsom, Clerk.

George Lukens, Ziba B. Daily and R. Shutz, Supervisors.

Daniel Bosworth, Assessor.

Lars Runnestrand, A. J. Porter and W. B. Mitson, Justices of the Peace.

J. M. Maxfield and Levi Alsdorff, Constables.

J. M. Larrabee, Treasurer.

Daniel Bosworth the present assessor of the town of LeRoy, is the son of Thomas and Harriet Bosworth, and was born at Great Creaton, in Northamptonshire, England, April 19, A. D., 1828. Was educated at the academy of George Wills, of Narborough, in Leicestershire, and at 13 years of age was bound an apprentice in the city of London, to an architect and builder for a term of five years, but after about three years service purchased the remainder of his time and worked as journeyman in several parts of England, until at the age of 18 years, in A. D. 1846, he with his parents emigrated to Granby, Oswego county, New York, and then followed his trade as Master Builder, and on June 14th, 1853, married Miss L. A. Draper, daughter of John and Fanny Draper. Miss Draper was born at Granby, November 9th, 1833, and died at same place October 26th, 1855, living only two years and four months after their marriage. One daughter was the issue of this union, named Ida L. Bosworth, now the wife of W. D. Williams, of Grovesville, in the state of N. Y. Soon after the death of his first wife Daniel Bosworth moved from Oswego county, N. Y., to Elysia, Laramie county, Ohio, viz: In November, A. D. 1856, then following his trade as builder, and on November 25th, 1858, at Elysia, Ohio, married Miss Anna E. S. Nevins, oldest daughter of Birdsey and Francis Nevins. Seven children were born of this union, five boys and two girls, six of whom are still living. Their names are as follows: Harry T., the eldest, 2nd William B., 3rd Hugh F., 4th Hattie Francis, 5th Edward Starn, 6th Daniel W., deceased, 7th Lottie S. He prosecuted his business as Builder at Elysia

until the war of the Rebellion, when in October, 1862, enlisted as private, in Company "A," 6th Ohio, Volunteer Cavalry, and was honorably discharged for sickness in October, 1863, and in May, 1864, for the benefit of his health, emigrated to Austin Mower county, Minnesota, and followed there the occupation of Builder, and dealer in real estate, and in April 1866 moved from Austin to LeRoy, in Mower county, where he has ever since resided, following the business of farming and dealing in real estate, and has now about 480 acres of land situated near the village of LeRoy, also a profitable real estate trade. His office at the present time is in the old LeRoy hotel, where he may always be found ready to sell you a farm or lot, or make a loan.

Rudolph A. Schutz, a member of the Board of Supervisors, was born in the city of Berne, Switzerland, May 22, 1850. His father, Samuel Schutz was also a native of Switzerland, and was born in 1810. He married Elizabeth Hane, also a native of Switzerland, and born in 1808. When young he learned the trade of silversmith. He worked at his trade in the city of Berne until 1852, and then with his family emigrated to America and located in Illinois, where he lived until June, 1856, when he sold out and with ox teams came to Fillmore county and settled in town 101 north, range 13 west, now known as the town of Beaver, located on the southeast quarter of section 7, and built a log cabin in which the family lived until 1869, when he erected a brick house which he occupied until 1873, when he sold the farm and moved to Kasson, where he now lives. He had a family of seven chil-

dren, three of whom are living, their names are Elizabeth, Samuel H. and Rudolph A.

The subject of our sketch made his home with his parents until his marriage, July 20, 1872, to Minnie A. Klampe. At the time of his marriage he settled on his father's farm and remained there two years. In 1874 he bought eighty acres of land in section 13, town of LeRoy. He immediately built a frame house, and the following year he set out trees and now has a fine grove of maple, willow and cottonwood. He also has over one hundred evergreen trees of different varieties, such as the fir, balsam, spruce and European larches, all in a flourishing condition. He has forty-eight apple trees in bearing, also plum and cherry trees; grape vines and the different varieties of small fruit in abundance. Mr. and Mrs. Schutz are the parents of four children, three of whom are living, Tilda E., born September 10, 1875, and died May 25, 1879; Eliza A., Alue F. and Ralph F. Mr. Schutz is now serving his third term as member of the board in Le Roy. His farm now contains 160 acres. His sister, Elizabeth, married Jacob Lenthold, a native of Zurich, Switzerland, now living at Kasson, Minnesota, engaged in mercantile business. Samuel H. served in the union army during the rebellion, was wounded in the right hand at the battle of Vicksburg, from which he draws a pension. He married a native of Switzerland; is now living with his family in Osceola county, Iowa.

William Sanders came to Mower county in 1864, at which time he bought land in sections five and six. It was unbroken prairie at the time. He erected a frame house

on the southeast quarter of section six; lived there until 1874, when he bought the Angel property in the northeast of section five, and moved there. There was a frame house to which he made an addition. In 1878 that house was burned with nearly all its contents. He then built another frame house, which he now occupies. He was born in Belfast, Antrim county, Ireland, in 1830. At the age of eighteen, came to America, landed at New York, found employment on a steamboat, plying between New York and Bridgeport, Connecticut. He remained there five years, then went to Illinois; located at Dutchman's Point, twelve miles northwest of Chicago. Was married in 1853, to Cynthia Odell, native of Illinois. In 1855 moved to Wisconsin, located in Juno county, an early settler. He took government land, built a good log house, lived there till 1864, when he came to LeRoy. Mrs. Sanders died in 1870, leaving six children, named William, James, Eva, Eliza, John, and Cynthia. His second wife, Sarah Spencer, was born in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, in 1835. Was first married to Jabez Spencer, by whom she had four children, named Joseph, Frank, Mary and Jay.

John Mahoney and three sons named Andrew, Jerry and John, came to Mower county in 1866. The sons bought land in section 7, town of LeRoy. The father died in 1878, and the sons are still residents of the town. The youngest son, John, of whom we write, now occupies the southwest quarter of section 7. It was wild prairie land when he bought it, but has since improved a great portion of it. He has erected a frame house, stable, and granary, and has set out shade,

ornamental, and fruit trees, and now has a pleasant home. He was born in County Cork, Ireland, November 15, 1848. He was eleven years old when his parents came to America, and settled in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, where they lived until 1866, when they came to LeRoy. He was married April 15, 1877, to Sarah L. Smith, a daughter of Charles and Fannie (Rowley) Smith. She was born in Warren county, Pennsylvania. Two children have blessed this union, Fanny E., and Mary E. Mr. Mahoney is a member of Eureka Lodge A. F. and A. M., and is also a member of St. Bernard Commandery at Austin.

Conrad Hambrecht came to Mower county in 1864, when he bought 124 acres of land in sections 17 and 20. There were eight or ten acres broken, which, with a log house, constituted the improvements. He has since built a commodious frame house and barn, also a good granary. He has purchased other land, and now has a farm of 476 acres, divided into pasture, tillage and timber. The buildings are protected by a fine natural grove, and his farm is one of the best in the town. He was born at Sanhoffan, Wurtemberg, Germany, February 19, 1831. He attended school until he was 14 years old, when he was apprenticed to a wagon maker to learn the trade. He worked at this trade until he was 21 years old, when he was drafted to serve in the army, but was not accepted on account of his height. He then remained at home for one year, and then came to America. He landed at New York and went directly to Philadelphia, where he spent a few weeks and then engaged to work at his trade six miles from the city, and re-

mained there two years, and then went to Chicago, where he remained two and a half years. In 1856 he went to Iowa and pre-empted some land near the present site of Staceyville, in Mitchell county. He remained but a short time and returned to Chicago, where he remained one month, and then went to Bloomington, where he remained two months, and then went to Decatur, Illinois, and worked at his trade for five months, and then went to Missouri, remaining there until the spring of 1857. He then went to Iowa and worked his farm until 1860, when he started for Pike's Peak, but in Missouri he found a chance to work at his trade, and worked one year. He then returned to Iowa and remained there until 1864, when he came to LeRoy. He was married in 1863 to Mrs. Wilhelmina Wirth, a widow with two children, Mina and Julia, and since have had two children, Frank and Louise.

J. R. Mason came to LeRoy in 1865, at which time he purchased the farm he now occupies, located in section 20. He was born in the town of Westminster, Windham county, Vermont, August 15, 1827. In 1845, in company with his parents, he emigrated to Wisconsin and settled in Dane county, where his father bought government land, improved a farm, and made his home until the time of his death.

The subject of our sketch was joined in marriage in 1851 to Lucina Freeman. She was born in the town of Plymouth, Chenango county, New York. In 1856 he started west to seek a home. During the trip he visited Austin. He selected land in Iowa, about three miles from Mitchell. He im-

proved the farm and lived there until 1865, when he sold, and came to LeRoy as before stated. Mr. and Mrs. Mason are the parents of three children, Flora and Clarence, twins, Arthur. They also have two adopted daughters, Ida May, Ella.

James Shepard, an early settler of Fillmore county, was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, September 29, 1831. When he was but two years of age his parents moved to Herkimer county, and lived in the towns of Schuyler, Salisbury and Norway. When the subject of our sketch was 21 years of age, he went to Wisconsin, where his parents had gone the year previous. After remaining there a few months he went to Iowa, and joined his parents in Alamakee county, where they were early settlers. In 1854 he went to Illinois and was married in Kankakee county, in December, 1855, to Desire Gates, also a native of St. Lawrence county, New York. They remained in Illinois about six months, then removed to Alamakee county, Iowa. In 1858 they started with teams for Minnesota and settled in the town of Beaver, Fillmore county. He entered 160 acres of land in section 9, built a small frame house, and improved sixty acres of the land. In 1866 he sold and moved to LeRoy and bought his present farm in section 16. There was a log shanty on the place at the time and twenty acres broken. He has since built a frame house and erected sheds to shelter stock, and has ninety acres of land improved. Mr. and Mrs. Shepard are the parents of six children, Frank A., Lewis C., Emma, Addie, George, Eliza.

James L. Bishop came to LeRoy in 1872, at which time he bought a stock of goods

of Decatur Bidwell, and was engaged in mercantile trade three years when he traded his stock for a farm of 160 acres in section 23, including the northeast quarter. He settled on that farm in the fall of 1875, and engaged in raising fine cattle and horses. In 1878 he went to Dakota and spent four months, after which he returned to LeRoy. During the meantime he had bought the "printing press" and good will of the office of the *LeRoy Independent*, which he published as a greenback paper, the first in the county. In 1883 he sold the paper. He had in the meantime been engaged in the mercantile trade in Minneapolis. Since 1882 he has been dealing in live stock. He was born in the town of Yorkshire, Cataaugus county, New York, May 21st, 1833. He attended six terms of school at Yorkshire Academy, and graduated from Condersport, Academy, Potter county, Pennsylvania. He commenced teaching at nineteen years of age, and taught in York state, until 1858, then he went to Kendall county, Illinois, and engaged in teaching. He engaged in mercantile trade in 1858, at Whitesville, Ill. In 1861, went to Titusville, Pennsylvania, where he was engaged in buying and shipping oil until the spring of 1863, when he returned to Illinois, and located at Yorkville, where himself and wife engaged in teaching two years. He then went to Leland, Ill., and taught three years in the graded school. In 1871 he moved to Howard county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm. He lived there until 1872, when he sold and came to LeRoy. In the spring of 1881 he was admitted to the bar at Austin. He was married in 1856

to Sarah C. Medge. She was born in the town of Freeborn, Cataaugus county, New York. They have one child, Lettie Loutine.

#### HON. JOHN FRANK'S FARM.

This farm is well supplied with timber, and some of it located so as to make it a splendid shelter for all the stock and buildings. The latest improved implements and machines are used in the farming operations; such as riding plows, seeders, self-twine binders, steam threshing machine. There are implements, tools and machinery of every description. The farm, residence and out-buildings, of which there are ten in number, are very conveniently located in a hollow square, on an elevated location, and protected on the north and west by a splendid grove of native timber. The above farm is valued at from \$50 to \$60 an acre.

This farm is owned by John Frank, and located mostly in the town of LeRoy. This farm contains 1,200 acres of land. The superior location of this large farm is not surpassed by any tract of land in any state. It is well watered by two living streams, one of which never freezes in the winter time, which gives the stock of all descriptions kept on the farm access to water at all times. On this farm are kept about 200 head of cattle, a large number of horses, sheep and hogs. There are about 100 milch cows, and a cheese factory is now in operation on this farm, to manufacture the milk into cheese.

The cheese maker on this farm is an experienced man, who had a good deal of experience in Europe, and twenty-two years cheese making in New York State. He claims that he can make a better quality of

cheese with less milk on this farm than he can in New York State or in Europe.

#### SCHOOLS.

The interest manifested in the public schools of any community is a good index to the population, as good schools only prevail where lives a progressive thinking people. In the matter of education LeRoy township has ever been fully up to her sister townships in Mower county.

After many divisions and subdivisions of school districts from an early day to 1884, the township is divided into eight school districts.

School District No. 4. This was the first school district in LeRoy township, and was organized in 1856. The first school house built was that located on the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of section 29, and was built in 1856. The first teacher was Miss Melissa Allen, a daughter of David Allen, who became the wife of Isaac Spencer, a brother of W. B. Spencer, who moved to California. The next teacher was N. B. Todd, then came A. J. Porter, Isaac Smith, Miss Eliza Pierce, Miss Emma Knapp, (the last three named were all natives of Maine.)

The school house is now situated on the northeast corner of the northwest quarter of section 31, and was built in 1871.

Around the school house in this district, there still clings something of fond recollections of pioneer days. Here the first Methodist Episcopal class was organized. Here the first protracted meeting was held by Rev. Norton. Then there was the debating society, where men's perceptions were made keener by fine, close spun arguments, pro and con, on various subjects; these, and

many an other public gathering now lost sight of, save by the memory of those who took an active part in the scenes in and about this school house.

School District No. 1, had its first school within its present limits, at the house of Henry Meyers, in the summer of 1866. The school was taught by Adaline Gates. The next season Emma Clapper taught in the same house. In the summer of 1867, a stone school house was erected on the southwest quarter of section 1. In this new building Miss Emma Peters taught the first term of school in the summer of 1868. The present teacher, 1884, is Emma Engelson.

School district No. 59 was provided with a school which was kept in a building of Elihu Morse, built for a granary. This was at an early day. Several terms were held in the same house. The first teacher was Syrena Lytle. In 1868 the district erected a neat frame school house on the northeast corner of section 7, in which A. M. Maxfield taught the first school. In the fall of 1883 this building was moved to the southwest quarter of section 6.

School district No. 52. The first school in this district was taught by Mrs. J. T. Williams, in the summer of 1863, at J. M. Morse's house. That autumn time a house was built on the southeast quarter of section 18, in which John T. Williams was the first teacher. In 1869 a grout or concrete school building was erected on the southwest quarter of section 20, in which Julia Crittenden was the first teacher.

School district No. 2 was provided with its first school house in 1861. It was located on the northwest quarter of section 9.

The first teacher here was Flora Reynolds. This was a small frame building, furnished with home-made benches. It was used until 1871, when the present house, on the northeast quarter of section 9, was built. James Pierce taught the first term of school in this house. The present teacher is Helen Leach.

School district No. 79 had its first school in a house belonging to Charles McNeal, located on the northeast quarter of section 22. This was in 1870. Later, the district purchased a log house of James Sample, together with an acre of land on the northeast quarter of section 22. This was only used a short time, when a frame building was provided, which is now in use.

School District No. 5. The first school in this district was taught by Jane R. — in a house belonging to Daniel Caswell, in the summer of 1857. That fall a stone school house was built in the village of LeRoy—old town—which served as combined school house, church, and public hall. After the advent of the railroad and the building up of the new village of LeRoy, this was sold to the Lutheran Church, and a new school built.

School District No. 63. The first school in this district was taught by Lydia Bonesteel, in a small frame shop owned by Mr. Shutz, located on the southwest quarter of section 36. This was in 1857. Soon after a log building was moved from Fillmore county, and located on section 35. Serena Lytle and Mary Prentice were early teachers in this house. Soon a frame house was provided near the same site, and now located on

the southeast corner of southeast quarter of section 26.

#### THE VILLAGE OF LEROY.

The original or, as it is usually styled, the "old town of LeRoy," is located on the Little Iowa river, on section 28, township 101, range 14 west of the 5th principal meridian. The village site is well adapted for the purpose of making the foundation of a thriving city, and its founders made a good selection, upon which to base their hopes. It is well supplied with native trees in and about its borders. When the railroad was built through the township in 1867, a station was made at what is now known as the "new town." This absorbed all of the commercial interests of the place, and finally left it a defunct village, the remains of which, financially speaking, are only dear to the memory of a generation whose mortal race is nearly run.

The new village is situated on the northwest quarter and north 30 rods of the southwest quarter of section 34, township 101, range 14, west, and on the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 33. It was platted in 1867, during the month of August, by J. H. McAlvin, P. M. Glathart, and Orlando McCraney, Lewis' addition being platted some two years later. The first train of cars reached this point the first Sunday in August, 1867. It is situated in one of the finest farm and stock raising sections in the State. All lines of mercantile, mechanical, and professional business, are well, though not over represented. Ever since it was platted it has had a steady, healthy growth, and its future prospects are even better than those of any village in the county.

The first actual settler in what was known as the "old village," was Henry Edmonds, who came from Wisconsin in 1854, and located first in Fillmore county, but a few months later came to this point. April 13, 1855, he raised a saw mill, on the east bank of the Little Iowa river, at a point on the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 28, township 101, range 14 west, within what was afterward the limits of the old village of LeRoy, said lands being bought by him of P. H. Stevens and wife, October 9, 1855. They had entered it.

In the spring of 1856 Mr. Edmonds sold the mill together with the east half of the northwest and the west half of the northeast quarter of said section, to Daniel Caswell, Martin L. Shook and Adoniran J. Palmer. In the summer of that year, (1856) Mr. Shook sold his interest to Lewis Mathews who came from Wisconsin. The company, as then composed, surveyed and platted the "old village" of LeRoy, April 24, 1857. In 1858 Daniel Caswell sold his interest in the saw mill and all that part of the "old village" lying on the east side of the river to Palmer and Mathews, and purchased of Palmer and Mathews their interest in all that portion of said village west of the river. In 1858-9 Palmer and Mathews changed the saw mill into a grist mill. Later on Mathews sold his interest to A. J. Palmer, who still later sold to I. H. Thompson, the present owner of the property.

In 1856, Henry Edmonds put up a frame building on the site of the "old village" and started the first store therein. He only continued a short time and sold to John D. Coles. He operated it until sometime dur-

ing the civil war, when he sold out and went to Missouri.

The same year (1856,) E. F. McKee opened a blacksmith shop in the place, beginning work in the fall, in a building which he erected for that purpose. He ran the shop till the new village was started in 1867, when he removed there, and in 1884 was still pounding at the forge, one of the heartiest and most highly esteemed men in the township.

In 1857 Daniel Caswell erected a hotel in the "old village" which he ran until new LeRoy was laid out, and then sold it to the county for a poor house. He then became the pioneer hotel keeper of the station, and the hotel, (a fine two story brick building with a basement) still bears his name.

W. A. Gilson came from Albany, New York, in the spring of 1856, and bought some land a short distance from the old town. About one year later he sold out and moved to the village, where he erected a building and started a general merchandise store. When the railroad was built he moved to the new town and remained in trade until 1875, when he removed to Minneapolis, where he is now in the real estate business. He was burned out in the big LeRoy fire in 1869, and was afterward in partnership with D. C. Corbitt.

Wentworth Hayes started a general merchandise store in the old town. When LeRoy station was platted he removed there and is still in trade.

P. C. Sheffield came here from Illinois in 1857, and located upon a farm on section 22. For a number of years he taught singing school in this neighborhood, and finally

in 1865 he started a store in the town which he ran for a short time. He is now at Watcher in the State of Iowa.

Among other improvements made at the "old village," was the erection of a school house, which was built and occupied in 1858.

In 1884 there were about a dozen houses remaining at the "old village," as landmarks of the past quarter of a century.

#### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TOWN.

In this connection will be given, as nearly as can be determined, the origin, change and present condition of each branch of business within this thriving village. For much of the information herein contained the historian is indebted to the aid of J. M. Wyckoff and E. F. McKee.

It has already been seen that many of the branches of trade commenced with men who came from the "old village" in 1867 and 1868.

The first to engage in the dry goods and grocery trade was McCraney & Hill, from McGregor, Iowa, who continued five or six years and sold to John Avery & Bro. Some time later John Avery died and his brother Frank continued the business and was still there doing a good paying business in 1884.

About the same time of Messrs. McCraney & Hill's starting came Wentworth Hayes from the "old village" also, and started in the same line. He located on the south side of Main street, where he is still operating.

Reuben Odell came in 1868 and opened a general stock, ran about two years and sold to Gardner Howell and he to R. G. Young, who came from Indiana. Charles Harden succeeded him in trade.

W. A. Coleman came in 1867 and put in

a large and well assorted stock of general merchandise, where T. A. Killen was afterwards located.

Another "old villager" was W. A. Gilson, who put in a full line of dry goods and groceries in the fall of 1867. He remained six years and removed to Minneapolis.

The hardware trade was first represented in New Town by D. C. Corbitt and J. D. Allen, of Wisconsin. They carried a full line of shelf and heavy hardware, together with such agricultural implements as were then demanded by the farmers. This stock was destroyed by fire in 1869.

Another dealer in this line was E. F. McKee, who removed from the "old village" in 1867. He operated till the following spring and sold to J. D. Allen, retaining the store building, which he rented to Allen. This store was situated on the corner of Main and Broadway streets, in a very desirable location, and was still owned by him in 1884.

C. A. Roy, who ran a tinshop in connection with Allen's hardware store, bought Allen out. Then Allen built opposite the Caswell House, on Main street, where he was still trading in hardware in 1884.

The first to establish himself in the drug trade at this place were Dr. Clemers and F. W. Frisbee, afterwards Frisbee & Son, who are still doing business on the south side of Main street.

The next to embark in the drug business was J. M. Larrabee, who, with Frisbee & Son comprises the dealers of the present time.

J. M. Larrabee, druggist and grain buyer. He is a native of Michigan, born April 7, 1840. When he was 12 years of age his parents moved to Illinois and located in

Winnebago county, where he grew to manhood, receiving his early education in the district schools, and farther advanced his studies by four terms at Durand Seminary. In 1863 he graduated from Byrant & Stratton's Business College at Chicago, after which he engaged in clerking. September 1, 1865, he went to Ossian, Iowa, and engaged in trade with A. L. Patterson; remaining there until May, 1866, when he went to Conover, Iowa, and bought grain until 1867, when he came to LeRoy, where he arrived August 7, and became the pioneer grain buyer, and has been in that business continually since that time. In 1875 he opened a drug store on the corner of Main street and Broadway, where he is doing a successful business. He was married May 8, 1867, to Mary J. Blount. Five children have blessed this union, Ralph, Fred, Maud, Edith and Romo G.

The pioneer boot and shoe dealers were Smith & Carson, who came in 1867 from the old village. They were burned out in the fire of 1869, and never rebuilt. He then embarked in a general store on the same street, and is now at Taopi in trade.

The next to enter this line of trade was Hans Hauge. He came in 1870, and is still the only exclusive dealer in the village.

The furniture business at LeRoy is represented by J. J. Martz, who has been in the business since 1869.

J. Martz is a furniture dealer at LeRoy. He first visited Mower county in 1855, at which time he entered the north half of the northeast of section 11, and the northwest of the northwest of section 12, in the town of Lodi. After entering this land he returned to Venango county, Pennsylvania, and resumed

his trade of carpenter and joiner. After the discovery of oil in Pennsylvania, he was employed at the Oil Wells building tanks and derricks. In 1866 he came west and stopped in Stephenson county, Illinois, where he opened a furniture store in the town of Davis. In the fall of 1868 he sold out his business, and in the spring of 1869 came to LeRoy and opened a furniture store, and has been engaged in that business since that time. He buys the furniture in the white and finishes it himself. He was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, June 10th, 1832. When he was seven years old his parents moved to Venango county, where he grew to manhood, and worked at his trade until he came to Mower county in 1855. He was married to Esther D. King, a native of Pennsylvania. They have six children living, Samuel D., William I., Charles H., Franz S., Nora A., and Hannah J. Mr. Martz is a man of well known integrity and is much respected as a business man and citizen.

The first blacksmiths who operated at the new village were John Curray and Henry Bowen, and A. J. Porter, who removed from the old village, and went in partnership with John Curray, in 1868. E. F. McKee, the pioneer blacksmith of the county, located in the new village July 1, 1875, where he does all kinds of blacksmith, machine, and plow work. Mr. McKee came from Pennsylvania and commenced work at the forge, as previously stated, February 26, 1855. Before coming west he worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. He has kept a daily journal in which he has recorded the principal passing events in the neighborhood in

which he has lived. From this systematically arranged book, he is enabled to turn to names and dates of many subjects long since left uncertain by memory. In 1884 his son, H. G., was in company with him.

Andrew J. Porter, the pioneer blacksmith of LeRoy, is a native of Ohio, was born in the town of Madison, Lake county, January 8, 1829. At the age of eight years, his father died. The family continued to reside in Ohio until he was twelve years old, when they emigrated to Wisconsin, and located in Milwaukee county, where they were early settlers. An older brother bought land and the subject of our sketch made his home with him, until he was seventeen years of age. He then went to Waukesha, Wis., to learn the blacksmith trade, and served three years at this trade, and then went to Northern Michigan, where he engaged in shoeing until 1856. He then started for Minnesota via the lakes to Ozeeki, Wis., and from there with ox teams to Mower county, where he joined his father-in-law, E. Whitcomb. He claimed the southwest quarter of section 30, in the town now known as LeRoy. He remained here two years and made some improvements on the land. He then bought the southwest quarter of section 31, where he built a log house and engaged in farming until 1864, when he went to LeRoy village, now known as old town, and engaged in blacksmithing with E. F. McKee. When the new town of LeRoy started, he went there and bought village property and erected a dwelling house, and in company with John Curry built the first blacksmith shop in the village. October 28, 1849, he married Miss Elizabeth Whitcomb. They have had six

children; two died in infancy. Anson C., Vica A., Julia I., Willard K., Frank W. and Lizzie M.—Ida and Frank dying in infancy. Mr. Porter was the first constable in the village, and has been repeatedly elected to offices of trust in the town.

The first wagon shop started at this point was in 1867, by William Reid, who sold after a short time to George Swasey, and he to Warren Walker, who still carries on this branch of industry.

The first to engage in the harness business was E. C. Kasson, who came in 1868, moving from the old village. Next came William Davis, then a man named Kent. After Kent left, the place was without a harness shop for some time, until in 1882, when W. B. Mitson came in and opened up a first-class shop, and is still the dealer at the present time, (1884).

E. F. McKee furnished the village with its first public hall in 1868. It was over the hardware store which he built, on the corner of Main and Broadway streets. It was afterward made into a Masonic Hall, and is now used for that purpose.

The next public hall or Opera House, was fitted up from an old warehouse, by James A. Henderson, on the south side of Main street. This was consumed by the conflagration of 1880.

J. D. Allen's hall, over his brick hardware store, was soon completed, and has served the place since that date. It is provided with good seating capacity and stage scenery. It fronts Main street from the south.

The first to sell farm machinery at LeRoy was Strothes & Conklin, from Cresco, Iowa. They were followed by John D. Allen.

Then Trask engaged in the business with Mr. Beers. Nelson & Bro. ran a branch house here, the main house being at Austin. They moved some of their goods away and finally were closed out at Austin.

The first grain buyers of the village were John W. Larrabee, Henry Gregory, W. S. Potter and Dell Rowen. There have been many comers and goers in this branch of business, but in 1884 it was left in the hands of reliable resident buyers, W. Hayes, J. M. Larrabee and William Henderson, who all had grain warehouses of good capacity.

William L. Henderson, grain buyer at LeRoy, is a native of Scotland, born in Aberdeenshire March 27, 1833. He is a son of Thomas and Barbara (Legge) Henderson. His parents were both natives of Scotland, and came to America in 1846. The family consisted of father and mother and seven children, six sons and one daughter. The family located at Roscoe, Winnebago county, Illinois, and there remained until 1850, and then moved to what is now known as Henderson Prairie, Fayette county, Iowa, where they were pioneers. The father took up government land and improved a farm and made it his home until the time of his death. Thomas, the second son, was in the Battle of Shiloh, and was killed. Another brother, David B., represents his district in the United States legislature.

William L. made his home with his parents until 1861. He enlisted in August of that year in the Twelfth Iowa Infantry, Company C, with two other brothers in the same company. He served until January, 1866. The most important battles that he was in were: Fort Henry, Donaldson, Shiloh,

Capture of Vicksburg, etc; also Nashville, Corinth, Mississippi, and Spanish Fort. After his discharge he returned to Iowa and engaged in farming, but his health was impaired and in 1870 he sold his farm and came to LeRoy and engaged in buying wheat, and still continues in the business.

He was married March 27, 1856, to Clara J. Durno. She was a native of Scotland. They have four children, Telisto J., Frank L., Maud and Gussie.

The first lumber dealers in LeRoy were Haytt & Burdick, of McGregor, Iowa, who came in 1867. W. A. Coleman opened a yard in 1868. Other dealers have been D. S. Fifield & Son, Gregory & Son, and D. C. Corbitt. William Allen was the sole representative of this branch in 1884.

William Allen, station agent and lumber dealer at LeRoy, was born near the village of Essex, in Essex county, New York, September 14, 1831. When he was 11 years of age went to Canada with his parents who settled at Hinchbrook, Province Quebec, where he grew to manhood. In 1851 he commenced work on the railroad. In that year he had charge of a gang of men at work on a railroad from St. John to Montreal, then in process of construction. In 1852, he came to Wisconsin with his parents, who settled first in Waukesha county, and later in Dane. Soon after he came to Wisconsin he engaged on the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad, as it was then called, but now a part of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul line. In 1853 was engaged with the engineer corps on the line from Madison to Milton, and in 1854 from Madison to Helena. He also assisted in surveying the route from Madison

to Prairie du Chien. He was engaged in different branches of railroad work continuously until 1867, when he was placed in charge of the company's elevator at Prairie du Chien, remaining there until 1870, when he was engaged by the company to measure wood at various places along the line until 1871, when he was appointed station agent at LeRoy, the position he has since held. He was married July 4, 1857, to Nancy S. Bronson, of York State.

The first hotel of the place was erected and operated by William Beemis in 1867. This was the LeRoy House, a two-story frame building on Main street. It was purchased by R. M. Slitor, in 1877, and two years later, when he bought the Caswell House, he closed the former and rented it for other purposes.

The Caswell House is a commodious two-story brick building, located on the corner of Main street and Broadway. The building was erected in 1868, by Daniel Caswell, at a cost of \$12,000. Mr. Caswell managed the hotel several years, then sold to Jacob Lewis. It was purchased in 1879, by R. M. Slitor, the present proprietor. It is one of the best hotels in Southern Minnesota.

R. M. Slitor, the proprietor of the Caswell House at LeRoy, was born in the town of Burton, Geauga county, Ohio, August 29, 1834. When he was five years of age his parents moved to New York State, and settled in Yates county, where he grew to manhood, receiving his education at the district school, and farther advanced his studies by five terms at the academy at Rushville. He then engaged in teaching. In 1856 he went to Iowa with his parents and set-

tled at Monona, Clayton county, where he soon after bought one-half interest in a saw mill; engaged in manufacturing lumber. He remained there until 1874, when he came to LeRoy and bought the LeRoy House, which he ran until 1880, when he bought the Caswell House, and still runs it. He was married in 1860 to Sarah C. Winter, born in Yorkshire, Cataaugus county, New York. They have two children, May Virginne and Ray.

#### THE BUSINESS IN 1884.

The following named persons operated in the various branches of trade in 1884:

Frank Avery, W. Hayes, H. A. McConnell, Isaac Thompson, A. Folsom and T. A. Killen, general stocks.

J. D. Allen and C. A. Roy, hardware.

J. N. Larrabee and Frisbie & Son, drugs.

J. Martz, furniture.

C. S. Harden, groceries, confectionery and restaurant.

M. A. Williams, tobacco cigars, stationery and confectionery.

George W. Clark, drugs and groceries.

Michael Murry, cigars, tobacco and groceries.

Patrick Moran, cigars, tobacco, grocery and billiard hall.

P. M. Tigue, cigars, tobacco and billiard hall.

E. Avery, grocery and restaurant.

George Craig, grocery and restaurant.

E. C. Kasson, barbershop and billiard hall.

Hans Hauge, boots and shoes.

William Allen, lumber.

J. M. Larrabee, W. Hayes and W. L. Henderson, grain dealers.

E. F. McKee, J. D. Allen, William Allen, farm machinery.

Warren Walker, wagon shop.

E. F. McKee, A. J. Porter and C. P. Wells, blacksmiths.

W. B. Mitson, harness shop.

Miss Nettie Gilbert and Mrs. McMillen, milliners.

William Allen, lumber.

Caleb Lewis, meat market.

R. M. Slitor, hotel (Caswell House.)

The LeRoy *Independent*, J. McKnight, editor and proprietor, (newspaper.)

J. M. Wyckoff, Joseph McKnight, E. J. Kingsbury, J. F. Trask and J. S. Bishop.

Drs. Alsdorff and Ed. Kingsbury, physicians. See Medical Chapter.

William Allen, depot agent.

Mrs. M. A. Williams, post mistress.

T. A. Killen, general merchant, was born in the North of Ireland, April 12, 1837. He attended school until he was 15 years of age, when he engaged as clerk in a store. In 1856 he left his native land and came to America and located at Monona, Iowa, where he was employed as clerk for one year. In 1857 he started in business for himself in Alamakee county, remaining there until 1864, when he returned to Ireland and engaged in business in his own native parish, remaining there until 1869, when he returned to America and established himself in business at Monona. In 1876 he came to LeRoy, Minnesota, and has built up a good trade here. He still retains one half interest in the store at Monona. He was married at Sibley, Osceola county, Iowa, in 1876, to Kate L. Handy. She was born in Rockford, Illinois, but reared in Wiscon-

sin. They have four children, Grace, George, Nina and Rose.

Mr. Killen was reared as an Episcopalian, but is not now identified with any church, though he contributes liberally toward the support of churches of different denominations.

Henry A. McConnell, general merchant, is a native of York State, born at Kenedysville, Chautauqua county, New York, February 28, 1830. When he was but two years of age his parents moved to Black Rock, Erie county, where they lived but a few years, then returned to Chautauqua county, and settled at Ellington. When the subject of our sketch was 18 years of age he engaged as clerk in a store at Jamestown, New York. He was afterward engaged in different pursuits in York State until 1861, when he came to Minnesota and located at Red Wing.

He enlisted in August, 1862, in Company D, Tenth Minnesota, and went to the frontier; was with Sibley's expedition against the Indians in 1863. In October, 1863, went to St. Louis, where the regiment was on provost duty until the spring of 1864; then joined A. J. Smith's command and participated in the battles of Nashville, Spanish Fort and Mobile. He served until after the close of the war, and was mustered out of the service at Fort Snelling with the regiment in August, 1865, and returned to Red Wing and engaged in the grocery trade there until 1872, when he came to LeRoy.

He was joined in marriage in 1858, to Delia McGlashan. She was born in Pennsylvania. They have but one child, named Carrie A., now the wife of J. L. Wakefield,

living at Litchfield, Minnesota. Mr. McConnell carries a large stock of goods and does a good business.

Patrick Moran, a dealer in groceries, and the proprietor of the restaurant, is a native of Ireland; was born in county Mayo, February 27th, 1832. When he was 17 years old left his native land and came to America. He landed at Philadelphia, where he spent two months as errand boy in a mercantile house. He then went to Illinois and located in Kane county, where he was employed farming and railroading until 1856. He then went to Mitchell county, Iowa, where he was one of the pioneers to pre-empt government land in Wayne; he erected a house and improved a farm, which he still owns. In 1866, he rented the farm and moved to Cresco, Iowa, where he kept a grocery store one year. In the fall of 1867, he came to LeRoy and purchased village property and erected a frame building, and engaged in the grocery business. Two years later he sold the building and erected another, which is now occupied by Mr. Killen, after a few years he sold that building and erected the building he now occupies. He was married June 23rd, 1869, to Annie Mean. They have four children, Sarah, Mary, John, Michael.

#### SCHOOLS.

LeRoy has excellent school privileges. A large brick school house, 30x50 feet, was erected in 1868, which cost over \$5,000. It is a two story house, with three departments. The first principal was Dunbar Leach.

#### POST OFFICE.

In 1853, a postoffice was established on

section 36, and Daniel Caswell appointed postmaster, the office being kept at his house. Upon his removal to the "old village," he took the liberty to take the effects of the office with him. Following him, William A. Gilson had the office, then John T. Williams, who removed the office to the new village in 1867, and kept it in Odell's store, until his own building was finished. In the disastrous fire of December, 1872, it was burned, and Mr. Williams was fatally injured. A full account of this terrible tragedy will be found elsewhere in the township history.

After Mr. Williams' death, Mrs. Williams became post mistress, and she, together with her son, still run the office.

It was made a money order office in April, 1870. The first order issued was, to J. Martz. The full serial number July 30, 1884, was 16,226. The first postal note was issued to J. Martz also, for the amount of \$3.00, dated September 21, 1883. Full number of notes issued to August 1, 1884, was 689.

#### INCORPORATION.

LeRoy was incorporated as a village in February, 1876, by an act of the State Legislature, regulating such matters. D. S. Fifield, W. L. Henderson and C. A. Roy were designated as the men to carry out said act of the Legislature.

The first and each succeeding set of officers are here given, as shown by the records of the incorporation:

1876—President, W. L. Henderson.

Trustees—E. F. McKee, A. J. Porter and William Allen.

Recorder—C. A. Roy.

1877—President, W. L. Henderson.  
Trustees—A. J. Porter, William Allen and W. F. Fifield.

Recorder—C. A. Roy.

1878—President, R. M. Slitor.

Trustees—J. Martz, H. A. McConnell and George H. Swasey.

Recorder—A. L. Sylvester.

1879—President, H. L. Henderson.

Trustees—J. Martz, H. A. McConnell and A. J. Porter.

Recorder—W. K. Porter.

1880—President, G. W. Swasey.

Trustees—J. Martz, H. Hauge and William Allen.

Recorder—A. H. Hayes.

1881—President, W. L. Henderson.

Trustees—William Allen, H. Hauge and W. Craig.

Recorder—H. M. Daniels.

1882—President, William Allen.

Trustees—R. Myers, W. Craig and H. Hauge.

Recorder—F. L. Henderson.

1883—President, R. L. Slitor.

Trustees—R. Myres, C. A. Roy and J. M. Maxfield.

Recorder—F. L. Henderson.

1884—President, R. M. Slitor.

Trustees—C. A. Roy, R. Myres and John Maxfield.

Recorder—F. L. Henderson.

One village constable is elected and one marshal is appointed annually, and are only remunerated by the fees of their respective offices.

#### LE ROY CORNET BAND.

This band, made up of fourteen members, each possessing an instrument, was organized

in 1877, with J. P. Barnum as their leader. In 1884 the society still continued to "make music sound far and near," with the same number as when first organized. At this time E. A. Whitcomb was leader.

#### BASE BALL CLUB.

With all the pressure of business life, the "boys" of LeRoy find time to try their skill at a game which is now as much a national thing as is the Presidential election. A base ball club was formed soon after the new village of LeRoy was laid out. In 1884, the "9" was as follows:

S. F. McGilloray, Catcher.  
 M. F. Murray, Pitcher.  
 C. S. Harden, Short Stop.  
 T. J. Henderson, 1st Base.  
 T. L. Henderson, 2d Base.  
 W. K. Porter, 3d Base.  
 Charles Cannon, Left Fielder.  
 A. R. Goldsmith, Center Fielder.  
 Fred Day, Right Fielder.

This club, which prides itself and is conceded to be the champion club of Southern Minnesota, has played with the clubs at Osage and Cresco, Iowa; with Albert Lea, Winnebago City, Spring Valley, Austin, St. Paul, in Minnesota.

#### RELIGIOUS.

The people of LeRoy township have been a religious people from the earliest settlement, the first religious services being held at the house of Henry Edmonds, in 1856, by Elder C. H. Pearsons. He was a Baptist clergyman, who organized a society in September, 1857. The following signed the articles of faith, and thus became members of the church: George Bishop, Lester Congdon,

A. J. Palmer, Emily Pearsons, Martha J. Bishop, Charles H. Pearsons, and Mary Congdon. A. J. Palmer and George Bishop were chosen Deacons of this pioneer band of worshippers. Charles H. Pearsons was their pastor. For a time the society met for worship in the upper story of E. F. McKee's blacksmith shop, but as soon as the school house was completed, they met there. In 1869 the building of a church edifice was commenced in the new village of LeRoy. This is a concrete or grout building, costing \$2,500. It was formally dedicated March 21, 1875. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. Remington, of Rochester. The society in 1884 numbered about forty. V. B. Lincoln was Deacon, and J. McKnight Clerk at this date. The following were the Trustees: H. H. Bither, T. J. Bishop, and Mrs. H. M. Avery. The following have served as pastors: Rev. Charles H. Piersons, Rev. T. B. Ropes, Rev. Walter Ross, Rev. George W. Arms, Rev. James Jeffries, Rev. Thomas Uer, Rev. W. W. Ragin, Rev. G. W. Burnham and Rev. E. R. Pierce.

Rev. Charles Pearsons, the pioneer preacher at LeRoy was born at Portsmouth, N. H., and was reared at Portland, Maine. He graduated from Newton Theological Seminary and settled at South Hampton, N. H. He preached at various places in the New England States. On leaving Le Roy he returned to his former home in the East and there preached for a time. But poor health caused him to study medicine and he finally abandoned preaching and engaged in the practice of medicine. In 1883 he was at Prairie City, Indiana, editing a newspaper.

Timothy P. Ropes, a pioneer preacher in

Fillmore and Mower counties, was a native of New Hampshire. He was a graduate of Waterville University of Maine. He was engaged in teaching in the New England States for several years and later in Richmond, Virginia. At an early day he located in Fillmore county, where he preached until 1860, and then removed to LeRoy and bought the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 28. His health was poor and after a few years he removed to Missouri, where his wife died. He then returned to New England, remained till 1869, and again came to LeRoy, making his home with Horace Barber, where he died.

Vincent B. Lincoln, deacon of the LeRoy Baptist church, came to Mower county in 1860. He is a native of Vermont, born in the town of Castleton, Rutland county, September 28, 1817. When but 9 years of age his parents moved to St. Lawrence county, New York, where they lived eight years and then returned to the old homestead in Vermont, where he remained until 1843, and then went to Wisconsin and settled in Dane county, where he was one of the pioneers. He took government land, built a substantial log house 16x24, set out a good orchard and enclosed eighty acres. In 1850 he sold out and returned to Vermont, where he spent one year on the old place; that year his father died, 1850. He then bought land which he worked for two years, when he went to Fairhaven and kept a boarding house until 1860, and then came to LeRoy. He enlisted in October, 1861, in Company K, Fourth Minnesota, and went to Fort Snelling, where he spent the winter. In the spring of 1862 he went south and served until Oc-

tober, 1863, when he was discharged on account of disability. He has been twice married; his first wife to whom he was married in 1844, was Almira Allen, the widow of B. K. Whitmore. She met her death by accident December 4, 1872. (An account of which appears elsewhere.) His second wife to whom he was married in 1875, was Thankful A. Rumsey. Mr. Lincoln owns a fine farm in section 27, on which he has erected a set of buildings.

The Presbyterian church of LeRoy was organized March 30, 1868. The following members were present at the meeting of the organization: J. M. Wyckoff and wife; W. H. Graham, Benjamin Mitchell and wife, Joseph Maxfield and wife, Mrs. Mary Gilson, Mrs. Isabelle Monday, Miss Salina A. Mitchell, A. D. Park, Mrs. Hattie Potter, William Craig and wife.

The following were elected trustees: W. H. Graham, Christian Aleman, W. B. Reed, F. M. Goodykoontz, J. M. Wyckoff. W. H. Graham was chosen chairman and J. M. Wyckoff secretary and treasurer. The incorporate name of the society is "The First Presbyterian Church of LeRoy." In 1870, the society erected a commodious house of worship, which is located on lots 8 and 9, of block 2. It is a frame structure, 32x52 feet, with a basement. It is surmounted by a spire ninety feet in height. The cost of the whole building was \$4,000. It was formally dedicated, February 15, 1871. The sermon was preached by Rev. J. M. McNulty, of Winona, assisted by J. L. Radcliff, of Hokah, and James A. Laurrie; Rev. Isaac DeVoe, of Lanesboro, was also present. The first Elders were J. M. Wyckoff and H. M.

Prentice. The present Elders are James McGilloray and W. B. Spencer. The pastors were as follows: Rev. Adam Craig, Rev. Wait, J. S. Chapman, J. A. Laurrie, B. T. DeWitt, E. Thompson and E. N. Raymond. In July, 1884, the membership was forty.

Rev. Adam Craig was born in New York City, June 26, 1808, graduated from Union College, Schenectady, New York, in 1840, and from Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey, in 1843. He was licensed to preach the gospel in 1843, by the Presbytery of North River. He held numerous charges in the Eastern States, and was finally made president of the "Milford Collegiate Institute," State of Delaware. He came west in 1858. He preached two years in Illinois, but on account of fever and ague left that State, and went to Iowa, in 1861, locating at Lime Spring. In 1862, he preached at LeRoy, perhaps the first Presbyterian sermon preached in Mower county.

Edward Noel Raymond, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Le Roy, was born in that part of the State of Maine now included in Aroostook county, December 25, 1837. His father was Greek, his mother Scotch. He was left motherless when an infant, and was adopted by a French lawyer living at Reviere, Canada. At 14 years of age he was sent to Montreal, where he received his education, leaving college at 22 years of age. During his course he had taught school in two academies connected with the institution. In 1858 he went to Hinesburg, Vermont, and engaged in the academy there as tutor in Latin and French. There he united with the Presbyterian church. In 1859 he entered the theological seminary at Bangor,

his expenses there being borne by Hon. William Dodge, of New York. He graduated from that institution in 1862. He was ordained the same year to the ministry at Hinesburg, with no special charge, preaching in different places. At Scranton, Penn., he was appointed chaplain by Mr. Dodge over his lumber men and coal miners. After six months he went to Aroostook county, under the auspices of the Maine Domestic Missionary Society, preaching to the English and French population. From there he went to Michigan, taking charge of a church at Middleville, Bary county, building there a fine church edifice. After six years hard toil there, he, on account of his wife's health, moved to Hartford, New York. He settled at Le Roy in 1878. He has a valuable library, consisting chiefly of English and French works, with a complete series of the Church Fathers, Greek and Latin. He was married in 1865, to Susannah Hislop, a native of Scotland.

James McGilloray, an elder in the Presbyterian Church at LeRoy, was born in the parish of Duthal Steath (Spey Kerr Bridge) Scotland, June 28, 1826. When he was but six years of age his parents came to America and settled in the Province of Quebec, Canada, where he made his home until he was eighteen years old. The following year he sailed on the lakes. He then went to New York, and sailed from that port for two years. He then returned to Canada, and in 1854 he was married to Elizabeth Kelso. She was born in the Isle of Arvon, off the coast of Scotland. They settled on a farm given them by his father, and remained there until 1870, when they came to LeRoy and pur-

chased a farm, it being the southwest half of southwest quarter of section 27. He has erected a good frame house and barn. He keeps a fine dairy and raises stock. Mr. and Mrs. McGilloray are the parents of nine children, named James, Mary, Simon, Jessie, John, Alexander, George, Duncan, and Donald. Mr. and Mrs. McGilloray have both been active and devoted members of the Presbyterian Church for a number of years.

The Norwegian Lutheran society of LeRoy was organized by Rev. T. Larson, about 1868, at the old village of LeRoy. The society purchased the old stone school house at that place, and converted it into a house of worship. The present membership is about 80. The pastor, O. A. Bu, who lives at Bloomfield, serves that place, Spring Valley, and Bear Creek.

The Methodist Episcopal denomination formed a class at the log school house on section 29, in the winter of 1857-8. Elder Norton, from Frankford and Spring Valley circuit, officiated. The following were members of that pioneer band of worshippers: W. B. Spencer and wife, Joseph Lytle and wife, Dr. Jones and wife and their daughter Harriet, William Graham and wife, Mrs. James Story. W. B. Spencer was chosen leader of the class. They met at the log school house until the following spring, and then met at the school house at the old village of LeRoy, where they held regular service for several years, but finally the class was suspended on account of removals, etc.

The Norwegian church, which is situated on the northwest quarter of section 11, was erected in 1878: This society was organized by Ole Berg. Meetings had previously

been held at the school house on section 22, and at private houses.

St. Patrick's church is located at the new village of LeRoy. The first mass at LeRoy was held by Father John McDemmit, in 1867, at the "old village." The first mass in the new village was held at John Meigs' house, and was conducted by Father McDemmit, and later it was held at Patrick Ryan's residence. In 1878 a frame church was erected, in which Father Bowen was the first priest. This building was dedicated by him. Other priests serving have been Father Coyne, Father Hurley and Father Smidth.

#### CEMETERIES

The following is descriptive of the organization of the first cemetery association formed in LeRoy township:

"We hereby certify that the names of those who assembled at the dwelling of Daniel Caswell, in LeRoy, Mower county, Minnesota Territory, on the 26th day of December, A. D. 1857, for the purpose of forming a cemetery association according to previous notice, were N. P. Todd, A. J. Palmer, O. D. Walker, William Raymond, Daniel Caswell, Lewis Matthews, William A. Gilson, Isaac Smith, John M. Wyckoff, A. D. Park, W. B. Spencer, James H. Story, J. C. Jones and A. Fisk. That the corporate name of the association voted by a majority, was 'Union Grove Cemetery of LeRoy.' That the number of trustees was six, and that the balloting resulted as follows: G. W. Bishop, Isaac Smith, N. P. Todd, Lewis Matthews, W. B. Spencer and J. C. Jones."

LeRoy, Minn. Ter., December 28, 1857.  
[Signed] W. B. SPENCER, Chairman.

The grounds selected by the above association were situated on the southeast of the southeast of section 28, and a few bodies were there buried. The grounds, however, were not regularly platted and recorded. These grounds proved to be unfit for cemetery purposes, as the lime rock came so near the surface that graves could not be dug the proper depth.

March 18, 1861, another cemetery association was formed known as the "Union Grove Cemetery."

At their first meeting J. D. Cowles was chosen chairman and P. C. Sheffield secretary. The following citizens were present: William Gilson, T. J. Bishop, F. Bevier, Chas. Smith, Daniel Caswell, Lester Congdon, A. J. Palmer, V. B. Lincoln, J. D. Cowles, D. C. Sheffield, John S. Priest, J. M. Wyckoff and Mr. Hedafint.

At this meeting the present cemetery grounds were selected. They contain eighteen rods square, and are situated in the northwest corner of the east half of the southwest quarter of section 28. The land formerly belonged to Lester Congdon. The certificate of articles of incorporate association were not issued until April 8, 1863, when by an agreement the name was changed to the "LeRoy Cemetery Association." The grounds were then surveyed and recorded as such. The bodies of those interred in the old cemetery were deposited in the newly selected spot.

No finer site for a "silent city" can be found in the county; and the care which the community have always taken of these grounds bespeaks well for the character of the people. Notwithstanding this cemetery

is about one and a half miles distant from the village of LeRoy, it is frequently visited, the green carpeting of earth smoothed down and the sacred mounds otherwise cared for. The grounds are beautified by large, stately oak trees, which have looked down upon that spot long years before it was consecrated to such a purpose and long periods before the winds moaned through their branches, a solemn funeral dirge over the loved and departed, whose remains repose at their feet. Besides these native trees, there are a great number of fine evergreens, which cheer the spot when the autumn winds have bereft the native trees of their foliage.

The first person to be laid away to rest, within these grounds, was LeGrand Johnson.

There is what is known as the Norwegian Cemetery, located on the southeast of the southwest quarter of section 11. These grounds were first used about 1870.

#### SOCIETIES.

LeRoy is represented by the following lodges: Masonic, Good Templars and Grand Army of the Republic.

Mower County Lodge No. 36, of I. O. G. T. was organized in November, 1883, by Col. Long, at Allen's Hall. The following were the charter members: Mr. and Mrs. William Allen, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Kingsbury, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Raymond, Mr. and Mrs. George Palmer, Mrs. Thomas Young, D. C. Corbitt, Miss Fannie Burnham, Miss Nettie Wilcox, Miss Mary Morton, Mr. T. J. Bishop, Miss Lillie Bishop, Mrs. W. D. Harden and Wilbur Allen. Officers serving July, 1884, Dr. E. Kingsbury, W. C.; Miss Lillie Bishop, W. V. T.; G. W. Palmer, G. W. P.; Mrs.

M. A. Williams, Chaplain; Arthur Williams, Secretary; William Allen, Treasurer; Miss Della Whitney, F. S.; Wilbur Allen, Marshal.

This lodge meets every Tuesday evening at Allen's Hall. At this date the lodge contained 60 members, and was in a good, live, working condition.

An Odd Fellows' Lodge was organized about 1882, and at one time numbered thirty members; but owing to various causes the lodge went down. Their charter was surrendered in 1880.

James George Post, No. 23, of G. A. R., was named in honor of Col. James George, of 2d Minnesota Infantry. It was organized March 27, 1883, by J. V. C., Asa R. Burleson. The charter members were H. A. McConnell, F. H. Avery, W. D. Harden, E. A. Whitcomb, E. M. Gillman, G. S. Brown, W. W. Sweet, John Frank, Fred Mason, J. U. Darrow, G. W. Flick, Caleb Lewis, E. C. Kasson, S. E. Morse, W. L. Henderson, George Remore, T. J. Bishop, E. Heddington, C. A. Roy, Charles Bell, Isaac Layman, S. A. Hill, A. Bettis, Andrew Mahoney. The first officers elected were as follows: H. A. McConnell, Commander; Isaac Lane, S. V. C.; John Frank, J. V. C.; C. A. Roy, O. S.; G. L. Brown, Q. M.; E. M. Gillman, A. G.; W. D. Harden, Chaplain; E. C. Kasson, Adj't; E. A. Whitcomb, Surgeon Maj; W. W. Sweet, Q. M. S. H. A. McConnell was still serving as Commander in 1884. This Post was organized with 24 men, and within a year had increased to 44. Most of the men are uniformed, and the Post owns ten muskets with accoutrements thereto.

Royal Arch Chapter No. 24, A. F. & A. M., was organized at LeRoy under dispensation, on the 25th of August, 1873, with the following officers and first members: I. Ingmundson, H. P.; W. F. Fifield, K.; J. S. Bishop, S.; M. E. Frisbee, C. of H.; C. A. Roy, P. S.; Henry Bowen, R. A. C.; H. A. McConnell, M. of 3d V.; J. F. Trask, M. of 2d V.; N. H. Roberts, M. of 1st V.

On the 29th of July, 1874, the lodge was granted a charter, with the following charter members and officers: W. F. Fifield, R. W. M.; A. J. Porter, S. W.; H. Bowen, J. W.; H. A. McConnell, M. O.; A. J. Porter, S. O.; H. Bowen, J. O.; M. E. Frisbee, S. D.; J. Mahoney, J. D.; J. S. Bishop and J. Martz.

Eureka Lodge, No. 75, A. F. and A. M., was organized July 23rd, 1868.

The charter members were: F. M. Goodykoontz, Charles Allen, I. Ingmundson, W. S. Potter, G. T. Angell, F. H. Allen, G. A. Whitcomb, Randall Billings, W. A. Coleman, H. H. Coleman and P. T. McIntyre.

The first officers were: F. M. Goodykoontz, W. M.; Charles Allen, S. W.; I. Ingmundson, J. W.; P. T. McIntyre, Sec.; W. A. Coleman, Treas.; G. T. Angell, S. D.; W. S. Potter, J. D.; E. H. Whitcomb, Tyler.

The following have served as Worthy Masters:

F. M. Goodykoontz, 1868, 1869; I. Ingmundson, 1870, 1871, 1873; A. J. Porter, 1872, 1874; C. A. Roy, 1875, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884; John D. Allen, 1876, 1880.

The officers for 1884 are: C. A. Roy, W. M.; A. J. Porter, S. W.; S. E. Morse, J. W.; J. M. Wyckoff, Sec'y; Charles Smith, Treas.;



*Geo. W. Corbitt.*

W. B. Mitson, S. D.; C. H. Meridith, J. D.;  
W. W. Sweet, S. S.; R. Myres, J. S.; W. D.  
Harden, Tyler.

This lodge, in August, 1884, was in a thriving condition, with a membership of 46, and had quarters in a commodious hall, used for Masonic purposes only.

#### DISASTROUS FIRE.

On Tuesday morning, January 19, 1869, the village of Le Roy suffered a loss by fire of about \$17,000. The insurance was very small. The following were the principal losses: Wentworth Hayes, dry goods and grocery store, stock, household furniture, books and papers burned, loss \$7,000, insurance \$2,000. W. A. Gilson, variety store, building, total loss; part of furniture and stock saved in a damaged condition; loss \$4,000, insurance small. Charles Smith, boot, shoe and grocery store; building, total loss, most of stock saved; loss \$3,000, insurance on building \$800. Corbitt & Allen, hardware; building, total loss; stock mostly saved; loss \$3,500, small insurance.

The cause of the fire was unknown. It originated in Hayes' store, and had got under such headway when discovered that the family barely saved themselves by jumping from an upper window. It was undoubtedly the work of an incendiary.

#### A MAN AND WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH.

The village of LeRoy was the scene of one of the most shocking catastrophies on the night of December 3, 1872, which one ever hears of. The *Austin Register's* account of it was headed:

*"A Women Roasted Alive—Hon. F. T. Williams Fatally Burned—The Postoffice Building With its Contents Destroyed—A Melancholy Tragedy—The Town in Mourning."*

The facts about this terrible affair were about as follows:

Mr. Williams, who was the postmaster, kept his office in the lower story of his building and lived on the second floor. In the rear was a shed in which supplies of various kinds were stored away. Twenty-four hours previous to the fire Mrs. Williams had given birth to a child. Mrs. V. B. Lincoln, a friend of the family, was in attendance upon her wants. About half past one o'clock Wednesday morning, Mrs. Lincoln desiring something from the shed in the rear of the building, with a burning lamp in hand started down the stairs. The doomed lady never reached the foot of the stairs alive, having stumbled and droppen the lamp near the head of the steps, enveloping her clothes in flames. Hearing her screams Mr. Williams jumped from his bed, went to the stairs and discovered her wrapped in the embrace of a fiery flame. She was at this time about three steps from the bottom of the stairs. In attempting to rescue her Mr. Williams jumped down over her to open the door leading out into the yard, but before he could accomplish it she rolled down against the door. Mr. Williams was almost naked, having on but one undergarment, and was in the midst of the flames, *literary burning up*. He broke out a window, seized a pail, went to the pump and several times poured water upon the burning body. Evidently realizing the utter uselessness of trying further to save the

woman, he rushed through the store to one of the front windows, breaking through it into the street, and called for help. In a few minutes many brave hearted citizens were on the ground ready to assist wherever their services were needed. Dry goods boxes were piled one upon another to the windows of the second story. Mr. Williams, whose face and hands, legs and feet, at this time, were fairly roasted, was the first man upon the boxes and into the window for his wife and children. With the aid of friends they all got out in safety. Mr. Williams then grabbed his coat, which had in one of the pockets \$737 and valuable papers; some \$300 being money order funds, and the balance belonging to the town. Having got down from the boxes he darted into the post-office and seized a package of some \$200 worth of postage stamps. All this had been going on without the citizens being aware that he was badly burned, or even that Mrs. Lincoln had perished in the flames. He walked into the drug store of M. Frisbee, sat down in a chair, and remarked to Mr. Frisbee, "Why, Mrs. Lincoln is burned up!" And in the next moment, he says: "Frisbee, I am badly burned; can't you do something for me." At this Mr. Frisbee, resting a moment from the excitement of the occasion, looked up at him and at once discovered

the truth of poor Mr. Williams' remark that he was terribly burned. He was assisted by Mr. Frisbee to the rooms over the store, and placed on a bed. He was so badly burned that when pumping water from the well to put out the fire, *he actually left upon the frozen ice the bottoms of his feet!* two pieces of tough skin, each the size and shape of his foot, and the thickness of calf skin. He left plainly marked foot prints of blood at every step from the front of Frisbee's drug store to the back, and on every step up the stairs to his very dying bed. The package of postage stamps had the distinct imprint of his bloody hand upon the outside wrapper, where he caught hold of it. Dr. Clemmer, of Cresco, Iowa, was telegraphed for at once and came, but all to no avail. The poor man was released from the thralldom of misery two days later.

The funeral services of Mr. Williams and Mrs. Lincoln were held the same day. A special train was chartered for the purpose of conveying the friends in and about Austin, and all parts of Mower county, were well represented by men and women who came to pay their last respects to one whom they loved and esteemed. They were both true Christians. Mr. Williams' funeral was held at the Baptist church, at 2 P. M., by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Arms.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

## LODI TOWNSHIP.

This township is situated in the southeastern part of the county, and comprises all of congressional township 101, range 15 west of the 5 P. M. It is a beautiful rolling prairie, watered only in the northeastern part by the Little Iowa river and its tributaries. The main stream has its source on section 9, and runs in a southeastern course, cutting off the northeast corner of section 16, and then runs nearly east, touching sections 10, 15, 11, and 14. It then passes across the northeast of section 14, in a southeasterly direction, passing through section 13, and cutting the corner of section 24, when it leaves the township.

A branch of this stream rises in a small lake on the northwest corner of section 1, thence passing southeast, making confluence with the main stream on section 13.

The soil in the western part of the township is a dark, black loam, and in the eastern part it is a black loam, with a light clay sub-soil. The soil is very deep and productive, growing all kinds of grains, grasses, and roots.

There is but a small amount of timber of native growth within the township, and these are along the banks of the Little Iowa river, on sections 14, 13, and 24.

Lodi is bounded on the north by Clayton township, on the east by LeRoy township, on the south by Mitchell county, in Iowa, and on the west by Adams township. On section 5, of this township, which is in township 101, range 15 west, there exists the highest point in Mower county. That particular location is four miles north of the head waters of the Wapsapinnican river, 3 miles southeast of the head waters of the east branch of the Little Cedar river; 2 miles from the head waters of the Little Iowa river; 4 miles from the head waters of Deer Creek; and 5 miles from the head of Rose Creek, which enters the Cedar river below Austin.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first act toward effecting a settlement in Lodi township, was brought about by Almond Fryer, in 1855. His brother accompanied him to the county. He came from New York, and settled on the banks of the

Little Iowa, on section 14, where he erected the first cabin in the township; it was constructed of poles and covered with wild hay and prairie sod. He remained until the time of his death. His widow married the oldest son of Elihu Morse, and in 1871, he died, leaving one son and one daughter. Almond, the son, was living at LeRoy in 1884, and his sister, who in 1882 married L. J. Mason, moved to Montana Territory. The widow is living at Spring Valley, Fillmore county, and the brother of Almond Fryer, is living in the town of Frankford, Mower county.

A. and R. Billings settled on section 15, in 1863, and erected the second house in the township. It was constructed of logs that were hewn square, and it was always known as the "block house," and was for years a stopping place for emigrants.

Alonzo Billings came to Mower county in 1863, and to Lodi township in 1864, at which time he settled on the southeast quarter of section 15, where he still lives. His farm, which he now cultivates, contains 200 acres. He was born in Cortland county, New York, July 18, 1820. He attended school and assisted his father on the farm until sixteen years of age, when he commenced to learn the blacksmith trade. He did not like that work, so after a short time he engaged in farming for a time, then went to Buffalo and engaged on a sailing vessel, plying between Buffalo and Cleveland, and followed the life of a sailor twelve years, then went to Michigan and found employment in a saw mill four years, after which he opened a boarding house. Three years later he moved to Walworth county, Wisconsin, bought a farm and lived there until the time

of his coming to Mower county. He was married in November, 1843, to Sarah Jane Stillwell. She was born in York State, in 1827.

Eliacum Morse came at about the same time as the Billings'.

Jackson Tabor settled on section 14 some time during 1863. In 1868 he sold to Thomas Kough, an Englishman, who was a thrifty farmer on the same land in 1884.

In 1869 came O. Hutchins, W. P. Davis and L. Wierd. Wierd settled on the southwest quarter of section 24, where he was still living in 1884. Hutchins located on section 10, remained till 1882, when he sold and removed to Dakota.

During 1870 the following came in for settlement: James Brown, Knute Iverson, Iver Hendrickson and Nels Nelson.

John Burns came in 1875 and settled on the northeast quarter of section 34, where he still lives.

Iverson and Hendrickson bought the south half of section 26, where they still live.

Nels Nelson bought the north half of the southwest quarter of section 27.

#### FIRST EVENTS.

The first settler within the township was Almond Fryer, who came in 1855.

The first child born in the township was Almond Morse, born July, 1859.

The first marriage was that of Miss Carrie E. Billings and W. H. Culton, August 17, 1868.

The first Sunday School was held in 1873, organized by M. H. Triggs, who also preached the first sermon.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The survey name of the township was

Lodi, but when it was organized in February, 1874, at school house No. 67, it was named Belleview, as the station established by the railroad company was thus called, but later changed to Taopi.

At the first meeting for organization J. M. Paul was chosen moderator, Thomas Kough clerk, R. Billings, J. B. Godard and Thomas O'Harra judges of election.

The first officers elected were:

R. Billings, Ch'n, J. B. Godard, Knute Iverson, Supervisors.

Thomas Kough, Clerk.

A. Billings, Treasurer.

Thomas O'Harra and J. M. Paul, Justices of the Peace.

P. P. Cavanaugh and Henry Thompson, Constables.

At the first annual meeting held in March, 1874, the name was changed to Lodi, at the suggestion of Thomas Kough.

The township officers for 1884 were:

Knute Iverson, Thomas Turton and James Brown, Supervisors.

W. R. Triggs, Clerk.

M. H. Triggs, Treasurer.

M. H. Miller, Assessor.

M. H. Triggs, Justice of the Peace.

Warren Culver, Constable.

#### SCHOOLS.

In 1884, the township comprised five school districts, Numbers 67, 96, 80, 99, and 100.

The school house in district No. 67, is located on section 14, and was the first one in the township. It was built in 1868. The first teacher was Miss Nettie Spencer. This school house burned down by a prairie fire, which swept across the township in 1871. A

new school house was erected on the same section, about 80 rods from the old site. Mary Gegory taught the first term of school in the new building. The present teacher is Matilda Finhart.

District No. 96 was provided with a school house in 1876. It is located on section 29. Miss Haley taught the first school. Prior to this, however, a school had been held at John Hubbard's house, by Miss Maggie Carr. This district was organized in 1865, through the influence of John Hubbard. He also gave one-half acre of ground for a building spot.

School District No. 80 has a building on section 26, which was built before the organization of the district in 1877. Miss Etta Bevier taught the first school. Miss Ada Mason is the present teacher.

District No. 100 was organized in 187—. The building stands on section 7. It is a neat frame structure.

School District No. 100. This district was organized May 7, 1877. The school house is located on the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 7. Ella Smithers was the first teacher in this house.

School District No 99. This district comprised the village of Taopi was organized in 1878. The first school in the village was taught in the winter of 1877-8 in a private house. In 1880 a good frame house was built in the village. The first to teach in that house was Ida Wells. Alma Johnson is the present teacher.

#### THE BIG FARM.

The following concise description of this farm was given in one of the Austin newspapers in 1884:

The Taopi Farming Company is the title of a giant corporation, incorporated in the year 1875, which owns and occupies 5,200 acres of the choicest land in the State, 4,000 acres of which have been under cultivation, 2,000 acres of the cultivated lands now in tame grass and the balance in corn and small grain. 600 acres have been planted to corn this season. In this mammoth farm there is a field, without a road, ditch or anything to break its smooth surface, containing 860 acres. We might also mention the fact in this connection, that there was one solid block of land containing 350 acres planted to corn this year. There were 800 acres sown with oats, 20 acres of potatoes planted and the balance of the cultivated land was sown with barley, wheat and flax. In addition to the large, fine pasture fields already enclosed by substantial fences, (one field of which contains 350 acres,) the company have just received 600 cedar posts, one car load of barbed wire, for the purpose of constructing fences and enclosing more pasture land for cattle and horses. There are now on the ground 40,000 feet of good fencing, which will be used for enclosing pastures for hogs.

The main line of the C. M. & St. P. R. R. runs through the farm east and west, the depot and village of Taopi, located on the farm. The farm is now under the personal supervision of General Superintendent, J. W. Wood, who has competent assistants to take care of stock and look after the needs of the ample and spacious barns, granaries, sheds and fine dwelling houses, which are situated on both sides of the railroad track. The work of the farm is systematically mapped out under two general heads, with a large

crew of men to execute the plans laid down for each division.

In the early period of its existence, the company devoted its attention chiefly to raising wheat, but recent partial failures of that cereal induced the management to change their method from that of wheat culture to variety farming and stock raising, which has proven very satisfactory and remunerative.

The buildings are numerous, costly and handsome. Among those on the north side of the track is a barn holding about 100 tons of hay, furnished with all modern equipments for unloading. The sheep sheds form a hollow square and are 100 rods in length. There are three other commodious sheds, each 100 feet long and 36 wide; also a double corn crib with a capacity of 5,000 bushels of shelled corn. There are in the sheds a large number of spacious stalls with troughs for feeding cattle and horses. There is a well constructed wool house with a capacity of twenty tons of wool. Other buildings are contemplated, and a large quantity of lumber is being hauled upon the ground preparatory for their erection. So much for the north side.

Among the pleasant, comfortable and commodious buildings on the south side, is a large barn containing stalls for the accommodation of 112 head of cattle; also a barn 60 feet square, a granary 40x80, and large and numerous corn cribs, hog pens, etc.

The company have conveniently located at the railroad track, near the depot, an elevator with a capacity of 45,000 bushels, with steam power for elevating, cleaning grain, grinding feed, etc.

In the cattle line this company is now getting up a fine herd of first-class Short Horn Durham cattle. There are now on the farm over 600 head of cattle, and are raising 150 calves this season, using nothing but thoroughbred bulls.

In hogs they have now between 700 and 800, and are also getting up choice herds of Poland Chinas and Berkshires.

Of horses and colts there are about 150 head, among which are a number of half and three-quarter blood Percheron-Norman mares. This year's colts, sired by their imported Percheron-Norman horse, are a choice lot. His name is "Beauty," and he is a beauty, and considered by the very best judges of horse-flesh to be the finest Percheron-Norman stallion that can be found in Southern Minnesota. They have beside several very fine grade Percheron-Norman stallions.

On this farm is a flock of sheep numbering between 2,000 and 3,000 head, and the wool sold by this company in March last amounted to about \$5,000. This year's clip is still on hand.

It is indeed a grand sight for one to look over this mammoth garden spot and view in every direction the waving grass, growing crops and feeding herds.

Sketches of settlers of a more recent date :

Rev. M. H. Triggs was born in Bristol, England, June 4th, 1832, and came to America with his parents when an infant. They landed in New York and went directly to the State of Ohio, where they remained four years. His father was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in the fall of 1836, was sent to St. Clair, Michigan. He did much hard pioneer work for the church,

and lived long enough to see the State of Michigan take foremost rank among the sisterhood of States. Loved and honored by his own conference for many years, he "fell asleep" at the age of 84; his wife having passed away a few years before, at the age of seventy-four.

The subject of our sketch left Albion College, Michigan, for the Garrett Biblical Institute at Evanston, near Chicago, Illinois, in 1855, and graduated from the class of '58. He then joined the Rock River Conference of the M. E. Church, and preached for twenty-four years within its bounds. In the spring of 1882, he came to Mower county for his health, and located on the northeast of section 15, which he had bought ten years before.

Mr. Triggs was married to Miss Martha J. Davis, of Winnebago, Illinois, in 1859. They have a family of four children, Zula May, William Robert, Oscar Lovell, Floyd Welding. The daughter graduated at Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa, in June, 1884, and has secured the position of assistant principal of the Austin school. The two older boys are students of Cornell College.

Wilber F. Davis was born September 15, 1848. He was raised in Watertown, New York, and attended school in that town. He came to Mower county in June, 1868, and located on the southeast quarter of section 10. He broke fifty acres the same summer, and in the following February he brought his family. He built a good frame house, 16x24, eight feet high, which he occupied five years; he then went to Lime Springs, Iowa, where he remained eighteen months, he then went to Winneshiek county, Iowa,

where he remained one year engaged in farming, he then went to Monticello, Iowa, where he was engaged as a teamster for eight months, he then came to Taopi and remained five years, where he was engaged in practicing his profession, as Veterinary Surgeon; he then went to Manchester, Iowa, where he remained two years, he then returned here and moved onto his farm, where he is now engaged in farming. He was married to Miss Elsie Wright, December 16th, 1868. She is a native of New York State, and was born March 26th, 1847.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis are the happy parents of two children, Clara E. and Frank W. Mr. Davis has been quite prominent in town affairs. He was chairman of the board of supervisors, which office he held two years. Also, has been constable. He enlisted March 31, 1864, Company B, Forty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. His father was a plow manufacturer in Watertown, New York, and is now 80 years of age.

Mrs. Davis' son, Frank W., was the first male child born in the village of Taopi. His birth occurred November 17, 1876.

James Brown came to Mower county in 1867, and bought the southeast quarter of section 28. Since that time he has bought the north one-half of the southeast quarter of section 33, so that he now owns 240 acres of land. He has been successful as a grain and stock grower, has his land in a good state of cultivation, furnished with good buildings. He is a native of Ireland, born in 1831, is the second son of Domonick Brown. He made his home with his parents until 20 years of age, then emigrated to

America, and landed at Quebec after a voyage of seven weeks. He went to Erie county, New York, and engaged in farming, remaining there until 1867.

He was married April 19, 1856, to Margaret Cannon, eldest daughter of Michael Cannon. She was born in York State. Her parents now reside in Mitchell county, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown are the parents of seven children, named William, John, James, Charlie, George, Mary and Sarah.

Mr. Brown is a member of St. John's Catholic church.

Iver Hendrickson, a native of Norway, was born in 1845, and came to America in 1862. He landed at Quebec and came directly to Dane county, Wisconsin, and remained there about seven years. He then came to Mower county in company with his brother, and bought the south half of section 26, where he erected a shanty and lived there nine years, when he built a good frame house. He is engaged raising stock and grain, his land being all under cultivation. He was married to Emma Knutson in 1876. She is also a native of Norway, and came to this country with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Hendrickson are the parents of three children, Henry, Monse and Tilda.

Thomas Kough was born in Shropshire, England, November 1, 1841, and came to this country in November 1861. He landed at Quebec, and remained in Canada about eight years. In 1868 he went to the State of New York, where he remained one year, and in February, 1869, he came to Mower county, and bought the north-half of the northeast quarter, and the southeast quarter

of the northeast quarter; also, the east half of the southeast quarter of section 14, and the south half of the northwest of section 13, making in all 280 acres nearly all at the present time being under cultivation. He has a good house and a fine barn, and devotes his time to raising stock, grain, and roots. He has been married twice. He was married first in Canada, November 16, 1865, to Miss Alice M. Benham. She was born in Canada April 4, 1838, and died February 3, 1872. By this marriage there was one child, Catherine Mary. His second wife, to whom he was married September 4, 1873, was Miss Maggie A. Wilsey. She was born in Wayne county, Pennsylvania, February 5, 1839, and came to Minnesota with her people in 1870. By this marriage there are four children, Annie Maud, born October 10, 1874; John Harley and Thomas William, born July 8, 1877; and Sarah Calphernia, born March 25, 1879. Mr. Kough has been prominent in town affairs. He has held the office of chairman of the supervisors and clerk. He is secretary of the Farmer's Protecting Society.

John Hubbard was born in the county Kerry, Ireland, May 1, 1833. He lived at home until he was 14 years of age, when he came to America and landed at New York City. He first went to Steuben county, New York, and found work on a farm, where he remained six years. At the age of 20 he commenced to learn the millers' trade. He had worked but five months when he had both legs and one arm broken, and for three years he was unable to do any work. In 1856 he went to Rock county, Wisconsin, where he remained eight months. He then

went to Osage, where he was engaged in digging wells and blasting rock, etc., where he remained one year. He then engaged as a teamster for eighteen months. He then took a contract grading the railroad and lost \$100 by the operation. He then went South, looking for work, but was not successful, and returned to Illinois and found work on a farm, where he remained until the fall of 1859, when he again took a trip South and went as far as Louisiana, where he remained three months, working on the levee at \$35 a month and board. He then came North to Illinois, where he remained six months. He then came back to Osage, Iowa, where he found employment with an attorney, where he remained two years.

He was married to Miss Mary Gilligan January 22, 1862. She is the only daughter of Patrick Gilligan, who now resides in the Town of Adams.

After his marriage he went to Mitchell county, where he bought a farm, and worked it two years, when he sold out and came to the Town of Adams in Mower county, where he bought the southwest quarter of section 20. He remained here ten years, when he sold and bought the northwest quarter of section 32 and other lands adjoining, in all 420 acres, nearly all of which is now under cultivation.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard have nine children, William, Charles, Mary, John, Jr., Catherine, Patrick Henry, Edward, Margaret, Grace, Agnes.

Mr. Hubbard has been prominent in town affairs; has held the office of justice of the peace, chairman of supervisors, and assessor.

He is a member of St. John's Catholic church at Adams.

Knute Iverson, a native of Norway, born August, 1835, lived with his parents, attended school, and assisted on the farm until he was twenty-seven years old, when he left his native land for America, landed at Quebec after a voyage of eight weeks. Went directly to Dane county, Wisconsin, and remained there about seven years, and followed farming. Then he came to Mower county, Minnesota, June 8, 1868, and bought the south half of section 26, where he erected a small log shanty, and lived there one year. He then built a more commodious log house, and lived in that thirteen years. He has replaced it with a good substantial frame house sixteen by twenty-two feet, fourteen feet high, with addition fourteen by sixteen feet, eight feet high, making a fine farm house. He is engaged in raising stock and grain, and is a prosperous farmer.

He married Dora Johnson February, 1858, She also was a native of Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Iverson are the happy parents of five children. Their names are Martha, John, Iver, Knute, Nelse. He has been prominent in town affairs; has held the offices of side supervisor for seven years, and treasurer.

David C. Wood came to Mower county in 1874, and bought 320 acres of land in section 20, Lodi township, all of which is now improved. He has turned his whole attention to breeding fine stock. He was born in Frost village, Shefford county, Canada, in 1850. He came to the States in 1865. He first went to Bennett, Dodge county, Wisconsin,

where he lived with his uncle, and attended school for nine years. He then went to Rice county, Minnesota, and found work with J. W. Wood. In the summer he had charge of Mr. Wood's farms, and in the winter he worked in the store. He remained there until 1874, when he located on his farm and commenced improvements. He remained here six years, a part of which time he had charge of the Taopi stock farm. He returned to Faribault, and purchased an improved farm of his brother, and lived there until 1883, returning to Taopi in the fall of that year.

Michael Goulden, a native of Ireland, was born in 1824. He remained at home until 1841, when he left his native land and sailed for America. After a voyage of six weeks he landed at Quebec, and went directly to Watertown, New York, where he found employment with a farmer by the name of Mix. He worked for him four months and then went to work for another farmer and worked two years. He farmed it for forty years in the vicinity of Watertown. In April, 1881 he came to Mower county and bought the southeast quarter of section 19, in the town of Lodi. He has a fine farm and it is all under cultivation; he is a first class farmer in every respect. He worked for one man in Watertown, New York, for thirty years, which is a good recommend for anyone. He was married July 5th, 1861, to Margaret Taney, she is a native of Ireland and came to this country in 1857. She landed at New York, and went directly to Watertown, where she had a sister who had been in this country six years. Mr. and Mrs. Goulden have five children: Sarah, Mary, Winnie, Thomas,

and Julia, all born in the town of Watertown, State of New York.

#### VILLAGE OF TAOPI.

This place is located on section 9. It derived its singular name from the celebrated Indian Chief, "Taopi," who befriended the whites at the time of the New Ulm massacre. It was platted in 1875 by a corporation, made up chiefly of the Taopi Farming Company. They purchased 48 acres of land on the south half of section 9, and platted the same into lots and commenced building. It is a station on the M. & St. P. railroad, midway between Adams and LeRoy.

The first move toward business at this point was effected in the fall of 1875, by the Mill Company, composed of H. Snider, Charles Whipple and the Taopi Farming Company, who erected a fine, large steam flouring mill, which was propelled by a 125-horse power engine. It contained eight run of stone and for a time did a large business; but through various circumstances the mill was removed to Jackson, Minn. The same reason this mill was built, the following business houses and firms were established: J. Martz built a two-story frame furniture store, which was used for that purpose until the mill was removed.

Oscar Olburg built a frame business house and opened a stock of general merchandise.

Christian Alleman put in a stock of drugs and in 1882 sold an interest to Charles H. Webber.

Charles Smith & Son started a hardware store, and were still doing business in 1884.

L. M. Tubbs opened an exclusive grocery store, continued five or six years.

M. Krebsbach & Co. built a frame busi-

ness house and put in a general store, which in 1877, they sold to George W. Corbitt.

George W. Corbitt, general merchant, is the eldest son of M. L. and Mary Corbitt. He was born in York State in 1844. His younger days were there spent in school and on the farm. In 1859 his parents came to Minnesota and settled in Olmsted county, and lived there about eleven years, then came to Mower county and settled on section 16, town of Marshall. The subject of our sketch remained there three years, then went to the village of Adams and engaged in mercantile trade. Three years latter he moved to Taopi and engaged in the same business, in which he still continues. He has erected a large stone building and carries a good stock of general merchandise. He also deals quite extensively in grain and coal. He also owns one-half interest in the store of Krebsbach & Co., leading merchants of Adams. He was married in April 1874, to Anna Seabern, eldest daughter of William and Mary Seabern. She was born in Wisconsin in 1853. In 1859 her parents came to Mower County, and settled on section 32, town of Grand Meadow, where they still live. Mr. and Mrs. Corbitt are the parents of four children, named, Herbert, Edith, Elhell and Glenn. Mr. Corbitt is Republican in politics, and takes an interest in all public affairs. Is always ready to lend aid to any enterprise that is for the public good.

A boarding house was opened by L. D. Sergeant, the fall the village was commenced. A little later in the season, M. O'Brien built the two-story frame hotel known as the "Taopi House."

A. B. Woodard also built a commodious

hotel, which, a year later, was sold to William Hahn. In 1884 this was owned by the Taopi Farm Company, but not used for hotel purposes.

W. B. Mitson & Bro. started a harness shop in the fall of 1875.

A postoffice was established at Taopi in 1875. W. P. Brainerd was postmaster. He was succeeded by the present postmaster, C. Alleman.

The village was incorporated in the winter of 1880 and comprises 160 acres.

The grain business of the place has always been a large trade. At the time the steam mill was built the same company who erected that also built, in connection with the mill, an elevator having a capacity of 45,000 bushels.

The next elevator was built by George W. Corbitt in 1879. He had operated in grain prior to this date, in a small warehouse, which was built in 1877. His elevator holds 20,000 bushels.

W. P. Brainerd built a warehouse in 1876, and a year later sold to Bassett & Huntington, and they, in 1880, erected an elevator holding 15,000 bushels. In 1884 all the elevators at Taopi were operated by steam power.

The first practicing physician of the village was Dr. William Edwards, who located in 1876. He only remained a year or two and moved to Wisconsin and from there to Dakota. He was succeeded by Dr. O. M. Landon, who remained until the spring of 1883.

A Presbyterian church was organized by Elder E. W. Raymond of LeRoy, soon after the village was started. He preached for this

society once in two weeks until 1884, when they had no services.

Christain Alleman came to Mower County in 1867 and settled in the town of LeRoy, on section 31. He repaired the small frame house that was on the place and has since broken all the land. He lived there seven years, and then went to Cresco, Iowa, and remained there two years, employed in a drug store. From there he came to the town of Taopi and opened a drug and general store. This was in 1875. He was appointed Postmaster in August, 1879, and he still holds that office. He has been prominent in town affairs, having been town treasurer and school treasurer. He is a native of Ohio. Was born February 21, 1832. He lived with his parents until he was seventeen years of age; he then commenced to learn the blacksmith trade, and served three years. He then worked at his trade two years, then went to Marshall County, Indiana and worked at his trade two years. He then went to Iowa, but remained only a short time. He returned to Ohio and remained two years. He then went to Howard County, Iowa, and opened a blacksmith shop, where he remained ten years, and then removed to Mower County. He was married to Miss Elizabeth Lowery, in November 1860. She was a native of Indiana, and came to Howard County, Iowa, in 1856. Mr. and Mrs. Alleman have three children, Ida I., Sadie H. and Leota.

Charles H. Webber came to Mower county in September, 1880, and located in the town of Taopi, and engaged in the drug business for C. Alleman. Was in his employ two years. He then bought one-half interest in

the business, which he is conducting at the present time. Mr. Webber is a native of Indiana. When he was eleven years of age he went to Howard county, Iowa, with his parents, where he remained twelve years, and then came to Mower county, as above stated. During the time he was in Iowa he served an apprenticeship with his uncle and C. J. Webber at Cresco. Mr. Webber is nicely located, and is prospering in his business. He has a nice farm of 80 acres with good improvements within one and a half miles of the village. Mr. Webber represents the Phoenix Fire and Life Insurance Company.

The business of the village was spasmodic. While the flouring mill was in operation, and before the "boom" had passed over, it was indeed a busy mart, but in 1884 it was not as good. In the month of August this year,

1884, the following comprised the business of the place :

## GENERAL STORES.

George W. Corbitt, and Bradbury & Strong.

## HARDWARE.

Charles Smith & Son.

## DRUGS.

Alleman & Webber.

## HARNESS SHOP.

W. B. Mitson.

## SHOE SHOP.

P. Peterson.

## BLACKSMITHS.

George Campbell and P. Midock.

## POST OFFICE.

Kept by C. Alleman.

## GRAIN BUYERS.

George W. Corbitt, Taopi Farming Company, and Bassett & Huntington.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

## LYLE TOWNSHIP.

Lyle comprises Congressional township 101 north, range 18 west. It is bound as follows: On the north by Austin township, east by Nevada, south by Mitchell and Worth counties, Iowa, and west by Freeborn County. The surface is mostly level. The soil is a rich, dark loam, and very productive. This is a prairie town and was void of timber, except along the Cedar river,

which is skirted with a rich, natural growth. In other parts of the territory, beautiful groves of transplanted trees meet the eye in every direction. Cedar river and its branches drain the township and furnish good water power, none of which is at present improved. The main stream crosses the northern boundry in section 4 and traverses in a generally southern course sections 9, 16, 17,

21, 28 and 33. In the latter it receives the waters of its most important tributary, Woodbury creek, which flows through the southwest part of the town. The first settler within the territorial limits of Lyle, which is one of the oldest towns in Mower County, was one Woodbury, who came here from parts unknown in the autumn of 1853, and claimed a large tract of land bordering on Cedar river and the creek which takes from him its name. On the northwest quarter of section 33, he put up a log cabin and covered it with sod. In this humble abode was performed the first marriage ceremony in the county. Woodbury is said to have been a real frontiersman, averse to society, shrinking from civilization. He sold his claim in June 1855, and moved to Olmsted County.

In the spring of 1854, three sons-in-law of Mr. Woodbury put in an appearance and made claims in the vicinity of his own. They were named respectively, Marlott, Pinkerton and Stilson. Marlott established himself for a brief season on the northwest quarter of section 28, subsequently accompanying, or following, his father Woodbury to Olmsted county. Pinkerton constructed a log house on the northeast of section 32. Having lived there about a year, he sold out and went westward to the Blue Earth river. These were men of the same stamp as Woodbury, restless spirits, ever moving on, not sinking under the process like Dickens' poor Jo, but cheerily pushing forward, selecting good claims, making some improvements, and leaving all when opportunity offered for a good sale. Rolling stones,—whatever their chief object in life,—gather no moss evidently. Stilson erected a temporary

dwelling of bark on the present site of Woodbury cemetery. In the latter part of the year 1855, he removed to Albert Lea. From that place, he journeyed on with his family and formed a new home on the banks of the Blue Earth river. Here a sad accident befell them. During a severe rainstorm the stream was rapidly swollen. The raging waters surrounded and partially filled the house. With difficulty Mr. Stilson succeeded in saving the lives of his wife and an infant child. They had a narrow escape, while three children were drowned.

The first permanent settlement in this town was made in 1854, by Orlando Wilder, Eben Merry, James Foster and his son Return Foster, John Tift and William Bean.

Mr. Wilder is a native of the Green Mountain State. He arrived here on the sixth day of May, in the year above mentioned. He built his house on section 33, and still occupies the homestead. Some of the party who came west with him settled across the State line in Iowa.

Eben Merry was born in York State. He settled on the west half of section 4. This farm he still owns, but he now lives in Austin.

James Foster and his son Return were natives of New Jersey, made the first settlement in the north part of the town in the autumn of 1854. They pre-empted land in sections 3 and 4. The father made his home here until the time of his death.

John Tift, also an immigrant of '54, entered land in sections 4, 5 and 9. He laid out the village of Troy and erected a saw mill. He died a few years later, and his family is now scattered.

William Bean came with the Wilders, and continued a member of their family, Mrs. Wilder being his step-daughter. He took a claim on section 33.

Orlando Wilder, one of the pioneers of Mower county, was born in the town of Orwell, Rutland county, Vermont, January 15, 1813. His father, Amasa Wilder, was born in Petersham, Massachusetts, but went to Vermont and settled in Orwell, where he bought a farm and made it his home until his death, in 1830. He had sold the farm a few weeks previous to his death with the intention of coming West. Soon after his death the family moved to the town of Addison in Addison county, and bought a farm. The subject of this sketch bought out the interest of the other heirs and worked the farm for eleven years and then went to Wisconsin and worked in the lumber regions for seven seasons. He was married in 1850 to Hannah Hites. They settled first in Union, Rock county and lived there one year and then went to Johnstown and bought a tavern, which he ran for several years. In 1854 he traded the tavern for land in Fayette county, Iowa. In May, 1854, he came to Mower county, and made the first permanent settlement in the town of Lyle.

Orlando Wilder, came in company with his brother Jackson, and Lewis West. They drove ten yoke of oxen, bringing a few household goods. They immediately made a claim on section 33, and erected a log house and covered it with bark. The party broke and fenced sixty-five acres of land just across the line in the State of Iowa, and planted it with corn, potatoes and garden vegetables. In the fall of that year Mr.

Wilder went to McGregor with an ox team to meet his wife and returned with her to their new home. The old log house has been replaced by a frame house which they still occupy. They are the parents of three children, Prosper, Pete and Shedd. Mr. Wilder was the chairman of the first board of supervisors, and was also one of the county commissioners.

James Foster was born at Cold Spring, Cape May, New Jersey, March 2, 1790. When in his teens he engaged to learn the trade of carpenter and joiner, and later learned the wheelwright trade. In 1820 he engaged in the provision business, at Dennis Creek. He followed that line of trade until 1849, when he emigrated to Illinois, and settled in Menard county, remaining there until 1854, when he sold out and accompanied by his family started for the Territory of Minnesota, coming with a pair of horses and wagon, bringing their household goods with them. He settled in the town of Lyle, as before stated. He first built a log house, and later a frame house, in which he lived until his death. His widow lives with her daughter in Austin township. Her maiden name was Judith Hickman. She was born at Somers Point, New Jersey, April 29, 1802. Nine children blessed this union.

The first settlers in the town of Lyle were obliged to go to Auburn, Fayette county, Ia., a distance of eighty miles, to get their mail and to buy provisions. They used to make the trip with ox teams. When the mail route was established from Osage to Austin, mail matter was left at Orlando Wilder's for distribution in the neighborhood. This was not a regular postoffice, but the arrange-

ment was a great convenience to the hard working pioneers.

The settlers of 1855 were William Allen, George Carrier, Benjamin Coe, James Davis, Dilarzon and Lorenzo Moshier, Joseph Richards, Edward Sprague, John Woodworth and David West.

William Allen, the pioneer of Nevada, took up his abode for a time on section 20. Thence he went to the Pacific coast, and when last heard from was living in Oregon.

George Carrier settled on the northeast quarter of section 20, where he made, however, but a short tarry. Soon the place which had but begun to know him knew him no more; he had sold out and gone to Texas.

Benjamin Coe, Ed. Sprague and John Woodworth arrived together in June. Coe bought Woodbury's claim and occupied it until June, 1856, when he sold it to Rev. Alanson Beach and A. M. St. John, and moved to Olmsted county.

Sprague settled on the southwest quarter of section 28. He had been there but two or three years, when he sold out to Judge Lyle, and returned to Illinois. His home is now in Otter Tail county, Minnesota.

Woodworth pre-empted land in sections 28 and 29. He also was but a temporary resident in Lyle. Disposing of his property in the township he followed the migration to Olmsted county. In 1861 the Woodworth place came into the possession of Avery Strong, a native of the Empire State. Three years later it was purchased by Orrin Barnum. Strong went to Otranto. He now lives in Chatauqua county, New York.

James Davis, another settler of 1855, pre-

empted the southeast quarter of section 22. In 1861 he enlisted in Company K, Fourth Regiment. After his return from the war he resumed farming, and remained a resident of this county several years. He now lives in Otter Tail county.

Dilarzon and Lorenzo Moshier, whose birthplace was in the State of New York, removed here from Pennsylvania, arriving in Lyle on the 14th of June, 1855. Dilarzon pre-empted in the northwestern quarter of section 30, where he still lives. Lorenzo pre-empted in section 29, southwest quarter. He held possession three or four years only, then sold and went to Missouri. Finding it very unpleasant there, not to say unsafe, for a union man, during war times, he turned eastward, crossed the Mississippi river and spent a few years in the State of Illinois. From there he went to Texas, where he died in 1880.

Richards was a Pennsylvanian, whom the summer of '55 brought to Lyle. He bought a claim of William Bean on the west half of section 33, stayed on it five or six years, and then left for Vernon Springs, Iowa.

West was a native of York State. He entered the northwest quarter of section 32, where he lived several years. He now resides at Otranto, Station, Mitchell county, Iowa, where he is postmaster. His son, C. L., is a merchant in Austin.

In 1856 came the following: Ezra D. Ames, Rev. Alanson Beach, John Beach, Wilson Beach, Erastus Bedford, Chester Calwell, Edward Calwell, Lewis Ebbers, Calvin H. Owen, Charles Owen, Rev. Samuel Loomis, Henry Roberts, William Shellbach,

A. M. St. John, Joseph Thompson, William West.

Ames, Bedford, Rev. Beach and his two sons, Loomis, the Owens, C. and H., St. John and West were natives of New York State.

Samuel Surface, a Hoosier, came from Houston county early in the year and pre-empted land in sections 28 and 29. He built a log house and stables and improved a portion of his claim. In 1861 he enlisted in Company K, Fourth Minnesota Regiment and died in the service.

Ezra D. Ames, hailing last from Indiana, entered the scene of this history in March, 1856. Pre-empting 120 acres in the northeast quarter of section 21, he lived there six months, and then bought the place he now occupies in the northeast quarter of section 19.

William Schellbach and Louis Ebbers, natives of Germany, were among the first immigrants of the new year. The former settled on the northwest quarter of section 34. He now lives in Fairmont, Martin county, Minnesota.

Ebbers settled on the southwest of section 34. His death, which occurred before the close of the summer, was the second in the town.

In July, Rev. Alanson Beach and A. M. St. John, bought land of Benjamin Coe, in sections 32 and 33. They then returned to New York. In November of the same year, Mr. Beach came again to Lyle, and established his home in the northwest quarter of section 33. His sons John and Wilson, accompanied him. John Beach pre-empted the southwest quarter of section 26. He

now lives on the old homestead. Wilson pre-empted the southeast quarter of the same section. He was a single man, and lived with his parents until after the war, when he settled on section 33. He now resides in Austin.

Charles Owen, a young man who came with the Beach family, entered the northwest of section 26, but did not make a permanent settlement. Returning to New York, he died before the close of the late war.

William West arrived in the summer of '56, and moved into the house that Alanson Beach had bought of Coe. Here for the next three months he did a lively business as a tavern keeper. In the ensuing autumn, he moved on to the northwest of section 34, having previously entered the land. This place he still occupies.

Joseph Thompson came over from Wisconsin, and settled in the southeast of section 27. After living there two years, he removed to Iowa. He served his country as a Union soldier in the war of the Southern rebellion. At a subsequent date he went to California, where he died.

Calvin H. Owen crossed the Iowa boundary line in the latter part of the year, and bought land and made a home in the northwest quarter of section 30, where he continues to dwell.

Rev. Samuel Loomis, a Methodist divine, came in the autumn and pre-empted the northwest quarter of section 19. Mr. Loomis enlisted in Company K, Fourth Minnesota Regiment. Discharged on account of disability in October, 1862, he returned to his home, where in December of that year he died.

Edward and Chester Calwell came from the Keystone State. The former settled on the northwest of section 30, the latter on the southeast of section 19. Two years later they sold their lands and went to Kansas. When last heard from they were in Colorado.

Henry Roberts, an Englishman, arrived toward the close of the year, and bought Carrier's claim in section 20. This land he still owns.

W. M. Pace and Robert Lyle came to Mower county in November, 1856.

In 1864 Pace settled on the south half of the southeast quarter of section 22, where he now lives.

Robert Lyle was a native of Ohio. He was a Judge of Probate, and was the representative from this district to the State Legislature. The town was named for him, also the village. In 1868 he removed to Missouri, where he now resides.

Sketches of some of the settlers of 1856:

Ezra D. Ames, one of the pioneers of Mower county, was born in the town of LeRoy, Genesee county, New York, May 15, 1826. His father, David Ames, was a native of Massachusetts, and a millwright by trade. When the subject of our sketch was but five years of age his parents moved to Venango county, New York, where they lived two years, then moved to Pennsylvania and spent eight years in Mercer and Beaver counties, then moved to DeKalb county, Indiana. When the subject of our sketch was 16 years of age he commenced work with his father, who died one year later. He continued to work with his brother two years later, then engaged on the Wabash Canal, and followed boating until 1854, then en-

gaged in farming in DeKalb county. In 1855 he moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, remaining until March, 1856; then he hired a pair of horses to convey his family and household goods to Mower county. He first moved into a vacant shanty, which they occupied a few weeks. During the meantime he had built a log house on the land he had pre-empted in section 21. In the fall he moved to his present location on section 19. He has erected a good frame house, set a grove and an abundance of fruit trees. He now has 250 apple trees in good bearing condition. This is one of the finest as well as the largest orchards in the county.

Mr. Ames was married June 13, 1852, to Miss Mary Loomis, daughter of Samuel and Christiana (Swarts) Loomis. She was born in Wayne county, Ohio, May 19, 1836. They have four children, Emma, Ida, Willie D., Hattie.

William West, one of the first settlers of the town of Austin, was born in the town of Stockton, Chautauqua county, New York, December 9, 1824. His father, John West, was a native of Massachusetts, and was one of the pioneers of Chautauqua county, where he bought land from the Holland Company, and improved a farm and made it his home until his death. The subject of our sketch there grew to manhood and received his education in the public schools. He was married in 1845, to Charlotte L. Gordon. At the time of his marriage he settled in the town of Stockton, and engaged in farming. In 1855 he started West, to seek a home. He came on the cars to Galena, and then on a boat to McGregor, when he struck out on foot and made his way to Mitchell county,

Iowa, and engaged in a saw mill at Otranto. In the fall he hired a team and went to McGregor to meet his family, and returned with them and spent the winter in Mitchell county. In 1856 he made a claim of the northwest quarter of section 24, town 101, now known as the town of Lyle, and built a log house, and moved his family there that fall. He has since improved the farm and erected the frame house which he now occupies. Mr. and Mrs. West are the parents of two children, Florence, the wife of James K. Clark, and Willie. Their oldest son, Frank, died in Lyle, aged 24 years.

Welcome Osborn, one of the early pioneers of Mower county, came here in 1856, and settled on section 27, in the town of Austin, where he remained until 1864, when he moved to section 14, where he erected a log house and still occupies it. He now has under cultivation 280 acres of land, and has one of the finest farms in the town. He is a native of Canada. Was born in January, 1825, and is the oldest son of Isaac and Sarah Osborn. His father ran away from home when he was six years old. His mother, at present, is living with him, and is eighty years old. He was married in April, 1849, to Miss Caroline Yates, also a native of Canada. They have ten children, William, John, Stephen, Melissa, Charles, Nancy, George E., Arad, Henrietta, and Herbert. Mr. Osborn has been prominent in town affairs, having held the office of supervisor and treasurer, and other offices of trust. Mr. Osborn never was sued and never sued any one, and he never was dunned for a debt; is a prominent member of the Methodist Church. Mr. Osborn says that when he

came here he tried hard to buy boards to make a door. He offered Mr. Brown \$1.00 for two six inch boards, but could not buy them. The family lived on potatoes and milk two or three days at a time, with plenty of money in his pocket to buy provisions, but there was none to be had.

Calvin H. Owen, one of the early settlers of the town of Lyle, was born in the town of Northeast, Dutchess county, New York, March 20, 1824. When he was 2 years old his parents moved to Pennsylvania and settled in Luzern county, where they lived eight years and then returned to Dutchess county, where the subject of our sketch grew to manhood. He made his home with his parents until he was married, January 27, 1846, to Sarah A. Crandell. She was born in Milan, Dutchess county, New York, May 1822. They settled in Dutchess county and lived there until 1856, when he started west to find a permanent home. He went directly to Decorah, Iowa, where he spent two months, and then went to Mitchell county, Iowa, and bought land four miles west of Osage. He broke and fenced a few acres, and in the fall he started on foot to find a location in Mower county. At that time he bought the west half of the northwest of section 30, town 101, and range 18, now known as the town of Lyle. He returned to Iowa and spent the winter at Otranto, and then in the spring of 1857 he went back to New York State and spent the summer. In the fall of 1857 he started on his return with his family for their new home in the west. They came to Prairie du Chien on the cars, and were met at McGregor by a team that took them and their goods to Otranto. In the

summer of 1858 he built a small frame house on his land and moved there with his family, and has since made it his home. It was clear prairie land when he settled on it; he has set out a grove, also fruit trees, and has built a good house and a large barn, and is engaged in raising stock and grain. They have three children, Marriet, Foster B. and Julius C.

William M. Pace is one of the pioneers of Mower county. He was born in the town of Rehoboth, Perry county, Ohio, August 31, 1822, where he grew to manhood, attending school and assisting his parents on their farm. When he was 21 years old he rented a farm and commenced for himself. In 1856 he sold out and came to Mower county and located on section 21, in the town of Lyle, where he lived for eight years, then moved onto the south half of the southeast quarter of section 22, where he built a small frame house in which he lived for fifteen years. In 1878 he erected a fine dwelling 16x24, 14 feet high, with an ell 16x16, 14 feet high, and a kitchen 12x16, 10 feet high. He has a nice granary 16x24, and in fact, has one of the nicest little farms in the town. He is engaged in raising grain and stock, and is one of the prosperous farmers in the town.

Mr. Pace's nearest shipping point for his grain (until 1864) was at McGregor, a distance of 120 miles. Mr. Pace has hauled wheat to Rochester with ox teams and sold it for fifty and sixty cents a bushel, and was obliged to camp on the way, as hotels were scarce, as well as money.

In November, 1861, Mr. Pace enlisted in Company K, Fourth Minnesota Volunteer

Infantry, and served three years with the Army of the Potomac, and was honorably discharged at the expiration of his term of service. He now draws a pension of \$14 per month on account of disability.

He was married May 22, 1844, to Miss Esther A. Martin, an adopted daughter of Judge Lyle. They are the parents of six children, Charles M., Emery N., Jane, Elizabeth A., Almira O. and Eveline. The children are all married and away from home.

Mrs. Pace died in 1866. He then lived single thirteen years, when he married his second wife, Mrs. Electa Graham, with whom he now lives.

Erastus H. Bedford was born in Monroe county, Michigan, September 25th, 1833. When he was four years old his mother died, and he went to live with his uncle, Erastus Cook, at Rensselaerville, Albany county, New York, and there grew to manhood, remaining with his uncle until he was twenty years old, and then spent nearly three years in western New York, Michigan and Wisconsin. In January, 1856, he came to Mower county and engaged, with Orlando Wilder, in farming. During that year he made a claim of the southeast quarter of section 30, and proved up on it a few years later. He was married in 1860 to Althea Townsend. She was born in Rensselaerville, Albany county, New York, April 20th, 1834. He had built a frame house on his farm, and they settled there. In 1862 he rented the farm and moved to St. Ansgar, Mitchell county, Iowa, and engaged in teaming and farming. In 1864 he returned to his farm and has remained here. The farm was wild prairie land when he first settled on it, but he has

set out shade, ornamental and fruit trees, and is engaged in raising stock and grain.

Robert Moore, captain of the famous company "K" of the fourth Minnesota, settled at an early day in Otranto, where he opened a land office. About the year 1859 he came to Lyle and took up his abode in the southeast quarter of section 30. Captain Moore was killed in a skirmish. His family now reside in Brooklyn, N. Y.

C. R. Hughson was a native of New York State. He was the youngest of George and Mary Hughson, was born July 23, 1827. His parents died when he was 10 years old. He made his home with his brothers and sisters until he was 16 years of age, when he went to live with Phillip Coons, and lived with him five years. In 1848 he left the State of New York and came west to Milwaukee, where he engaged in the mercantile trade, but was not pleased with the business, and in 1849 he started for California, by way of Panama. He was engaged in mining. He returned to Albany, New York, in 1852, where he engaged in the lumber trade with his brother and continued in that business for six years. In 1858 he came to Mower county and settled on the southwest quarter of section 25, where he erected a small frame house in which they lived until 1882, when he built a more commodious house 16x24, 14 feet high, with an addition 16x22 feet, 14 feet high. He was married January 31, 1855, to Miss Mary L. Owen. She is a native of New York State, and was the youngest child of Albert G. and Hannah Owen. Mr. and Mrs. Hughson have five children, Harriet M., George A., John L., Mary E. and Eugene W. They have lost three chil-

dren, their names were Francis E., Cephes O. and Herbert M. Mr. Hughson died April 7, 1884, age 56 years, 8 months and 14 days. His widow and children still reside on the homestead.

David Gekler, one of the early settlers of Mower county, was born in Germany, August 2, 1825. In 1854 he emigrated to America and landed at New York City; went directly to Utica, where he engaged in a cabinet manufactory for a few months, then went to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he remained until 1857, then came to Mower county, and settled in Lyle township, where he lived eight years, then moved to his present location, the west half of the southwest quarter of section 14, which he took as a homestead. He now has the land in a good state of cultivation, is engaged raising grain and stock.

His wife, formerly Anna M. Sloderbeck, was born in Germany in 1828. They are the parents of eight children, Bennie, Emma, Mary, Catherine, Lorenzo, Christiana, Lowena, Esther.

No records earlier than 1868 are to be found in the office of the town clerk. For particulars see article on William Beach.

The present (1884) officers of the town of Lyle are:

G. C. Allen, Ch'n, M. J. Hawley and W. Watkins, Supervisors.

Atkins Hotson, Clerk.

Joseph Wyburney, Assessor.

O. H. Brown, Treasurer.

W. C. Potter and Peter Wilder, Justices of the Peace.

George C. Allen, chairman of the present board of supervisors, is a native of Ashtabula

county, Ohio; was born January, 1840; lived on a farm, assisted his parents, attended school, and time passed along. When 21 years of age he started out for himself, went to Titusville, Pennsylvania, engaged in the oil refining business. In 1862 he enlisted in the Eighteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, Company D, and served until January 2, 1864, when he was discharged on account of disability. He returned to the place of his birth, visited old friends, rehearsed the scenes of by-gone days and early youth. September, 1864, he made a visit to Minnesota and settled in the town of Austin, on Abe Lott's farm; remained there four years, when he settled on section 26, town of Lyle, where he erected a frame house. His farm contains 160 acres, all improved. He raises stock and grain.

He was married to Miss Caroline Holmes in August, 1861. She was a native of Ohio. They have three children, named George W. Carrie L. and Edwin H.

Mr. Allen has held various offices of trust in the town besides the office he now fills.

Thomas A. Hotson came to Mower county in 1862, and bought 160 acres of land in section 10, town of Lyle. There were three or four acres broken, and a pre-emption shanty constituted the improvements. He now has all of the land improved; has erected a good set of frame buildings, and planted a grove. He was born in Norfolk, England, December 16, 1829. He was married in 1849, to Esther Guttridge, also a native of Norfolk. In 1854 they left their native land and came to America. They sailed from Liverpool the 6th of October, landing at New Orleans after a passage of six weeks and four days. He first settled in St. Louis, where he worked in

a rolling mill for a short time, then went to St. Clare county, Illinois, where he bought an interest in a brick yard, which he operated one season, after which he engaged in farming in St. Clare county, remaining there until 1862, then came to Mower county as before stated. Mr. and Mrs. Hotson have five children, Atkins, Thomas, Fred, William, Emer.

Stephen A. Martin came to Mower county in March 1865, and settled on the southwest quarter of section 29, where he has since lived. He was born near Chautauqua Lake Chautauqua county, New York, January 14, 1813. His father, Isaiah Martin, was one of the first settlers in Chautauqua county. He settled there in 1812, and purchased timber land of the Holland Company. He cleared a farm and made his home there until his death. The subject of this sketch there grew to manhood, and was joined in marriage February 14, 1837, to Lodisia Harvey. She died in 1847, and left one child, named Rosette. His second wife, to whom he was married November 16, 1848, was formerly Mary A. Edson. She was born in the town of Cherry Creek, Chautauqua county, New York, March 22, 1825. Her father, Elam Edson, was a native of Connecticut, and was one of the first settlers in Chautauqua county. He served in the war of 1812, as Drum Major. Mr. Martin bought land in the town of Arkright, Chautauqua county, and settled there when he was first married, and lived there until 1854, and then sold and moved to Cherry Creek township, and bought a farm and remained there until 1865, and then came to Mower county and settled on his present farm. Mr. and Mrs. Martin are the

parents of five children, Christiana, wife of W. E. Tubbs, William H., Lester H., Pearlle the wife of Joseph M. Whitford, and Rudell I. William, the oldest son of Mr. Martin, lives at home and manages the farm; is a prominent member of the Christian Church.

D. P. Kittredge came to Lyle in 1868, and bought the farm formerly owned by Jeremiah Phelps. Twenty acres of the land at that time were already broken, but no buildings stood thereon. Mr. Kittredge has erected a commodious frame dwelling and other buildings, and has about seventy acres of land under cultivation. This is an excellent farm. It contains a fine natural grove and is crossed by a crystal stream of water. Mr. Kittredge was born in the village of Richland, Kennebec county, Maine, in 1835. There he lived until he was seventeen and then removed to Bangor. Here he was employed in a saw mill until 1856, when he came to Minnesota territory. He was then engaged in the lumber business at Stillwater, till 1861, in which year he went to California, going via the Isthmus of Panama. He lived five years in Mendocino county, in the northern part of the state. Returning thence to Stillwater, he remained in that place till 1868, when he settled in Lyle, as before stated. The following year he married Mary A. Decker, a native of Illinois. They have five children, Mary A., Etta E., Ella B., William B., Sadie E.

J. S. Bowers came to Mower county in 1871, at which time he purchased his present farm located in section 17. He is a native of Canada, born in Waterloo county, December 28, 1829. His father, Samuel Bowers, and his mother, whose maiden name was

Lydia Sours, were natives of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, from whence they emigrated to Canada in 1825, and were among the first settlers of Waterloo county. His father purchased a large tract of government land, improved a farm and lived there until the time of his death. When the subject of our sketch was 14 years of age he commenced work with his father, who was a carpenter and joiner by trade. He continued work with his father at his trade and on the farm until 20 years of age, when he bought his time and commenced for himself. He was married in his twentieth year to Elizabeth Wickfall, who was born in Lincolnshire, England. In company with his brother he purchased the old homestead and saw mill, and engaged in farming and lumbering. In 1860 he moved to Missouri and settled in Benton county. In the time of the rebellion he found it unpleasant for a union man there and removed to Iowa, and settled in Fayette county, where he worked at his trade two years, then moved to Osage, Mitchell county. There in company with J. J. Bowers he built and operated a saw mill; remained there until 1871, when he came to Mower county as before stated. Mr. and Mrs. Bowers are the parents of seven children, Norman, Hannah, Harriet, Milton E., Charles N. Alberta, Wilhelmina. Norman married Mary E. Trowbridge. Hannah is the wife of Marshall Haney. Harriet is the wife of Maitland F. Varco. Milton E. married Elizabeth Dickerson. Charles married Augusta Dickerson. Alberta is the wife of Benjamin Wilder.

Henry C. Trowbridge, second son of S. H. and Diana Trowbridge, was born in

Racine county, Wisconsin, April 21, 1846, where he made his home with his parents until 1863. The date of their settlement in Lyle was early in 1865. He went to Wisconsin, and from there to Chicago, where he enlisted in March of that year in Company I, Eleventh Illinois Cavalry; went with his regiment to Memphis, Tennessee, where they were stationed until after the close of the war. He was discharged in July, 1865, after which he returned to Lyle. He was married in 1870 to Raxana Chandler, daughter of Welcome Chandler, a pioneer of Mower county. He engaged in farming in section 8 until 1875, when he went to the village of Lyle and engaged in buying grain. In 1876 he went to Austin and engaged as clerk in a grocery store, remaining one year, after which he returned to the farm. In 1883 he bought his present farm in section 9. Mr. and Mrs. Trowbridge are the parents of five children, Nettie, Frederick, Grace, Ethel, Henry.

#### FIRST EVENTS.

The first white child born in Lyle township was Isaac Moshier, son of Dilarzon and Elizabeth (Milliken) Moshier. The date of his birth was August 16, 1855.

The first death in the town was that of Mrs. Margary Bean, wife of Willian N. Bean, in March, 1856. She was buried within the limits of Woodbury cemetery long before it was surveyed.

The next death was that of Louis Ebbers, a German, which occurred in the summer of of the same year. His body was also interred in Woodbury cemetery.

School District No. 13. The first school in this district, as well as the first in the

town, was taught during the summer of 1856, by Maria Vaughan, in the log house built by Pinkerton on the northeast quarter of section 32. Zillah Beach afterwards taught in Lorenzo Moshier's house on the northwest quarter of section 29. Thomas Parker was an early teacher here. Rev. Samuel Loomis taught in Samuel Surface's house. In 1860 the district purchased a frame building in Otranto and moved it to the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of section 23. T. J. Locke, C. R. Houston, Erwin Lyle and Dora Clappsaddle were early teachers in that house, which was in use till 1874. In this year was built the present school house, which is situated in the northeast quarter of section 32. S. Anna McCune was the first here to fill the position of instructor.

School district No. 12. About the year 1859 the first school in this district was taught by Rev. Samuel Loomis, in a log house, standing in section 3. Not long after this a school house was built through the united efforts of the people, James Foster generously furnishing poplar logs for the body of the house, and C. H. Huntington burr oak logs for the foundation. The men of the district assembled themselves together, cut down the trees and raised and roofed the building. A carpenter was then employed to complete the house and make the benches. Having served to purpose some twenty years this house was felt to be no longer adapted to the needs of the district. A new one, the present edifice, was then erected on the old site. Al. Hickock was the first to preside at its desk.

School District No. 14. A log house sit-

uated on the southeast corner of section 5, and formerly owned by John Tift, was the earliest temple of learning in the district. School was kept here four terms, beginning in 1866, with Nellie Hawkins as the first instructor. In 1870 a frame building was erected for the school on the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of section 5. The first who taught in this house was Amelia Houghton, now the wife of M. B. Slocum. The building has since been moved to the southeast corner of section 5, where it now stands.

School District No. 15. Thomas Parker was the first who taught in No. 15. The house in which the school sessions were held for three terms was of the primitive log cabin pattern. It was situated in the southeast corner of section 27, and was owned by Joseph Thompson. In 1867 a good frame house was built in the northeast quarter of section 34. The first teacher in this was a Miss Carpenter of Michigan. This building being outgrown in the short space of five years, it was replaced in 1872 by a larger and better one on the same site. The present commodious house, measuring 26x36 feet, and 16 feet high, is heated by a furnace in the basement, and is kept in good repair. J. M. Weiser, the first teacher, failing to give satisfaction, one Master Wilkins was chosen to fill his place and finish the term. Miss Emma Clark is the present teacher.

School District No. 70. Emma Smith was the first teacher employed in this district, which was organized in 1867. A small frame house, 12x16, put up on the northeast quarter of section 19, was used for school purposes until 1874, when the present com-

modious building was erected on the old site, at a cost of \$1,200. It is a good frame house well furnished with patent seats and desks. Wilbur Wilder was the first to teach in the new house.

School District No. 54. This district was organized in 1867. The first school house was built of logs and stood on the southwest corner of section 12. The first teacher was Cynthia Addington, of Stacyville, Iowa. In 1881 a good frame house, 22x26 ft, and 12 feet high, was erected on the southwest quarter of section 13. Nina Bisbit was the first to be employed as teacher in the new house. Anna Edda has charge of the school at present, in the spring of 1884.

#### CEDAR CITY—A CITY WHICH NEVER WAS.

The town of Lyle boasts of a locality known as Cedar City. Emigrants at an early day were attracted by this high sounding name, thinking it must denote a place of some importance. Andrew Gemmel tells that he stopped to make inquiry concerning it, of the postmaster at St. Paul. The courteous official told him the location, and remarked that very likely he would find but one house there. The chosen site of this projected city which never was built was in section 4. The land was first claimed by John Chandler. He, however, waived his claim in favor of Caleb Stock and John Phelps, who proposed to erect a mill. They began work there in 1856, putting in a substantial dam of stone and timber. A third party, T. N. Stone, was interested with them in this enterprise. Two mills were built, one furnished with a circular saw for sawing lumber, the other a grist mill, with one set of buhrs. In 1858 Stock traded his interest in

the mill to George Phelps. The grist mill was completed in August of that year. One sack of wheat had been ground when came a freshet and swept both mills down the stream. Thus the hopes of the company were blasted. The mills were never rebuilt. Owing to the fine water power at this point, people in the neighborhood once indulged in the pleasing expectation that Cedar City would become a formidable rival of Austin, even if it did not surpass it altogether. Circumstances determined it otherwise. Nothing now remains to mark the site of the imaginary city but the ruins of the old milldam.

Mrs. Stephen Thyng, whose maiden name was Annie Starrett, was born in Nova Scotia, June 7, 1836. In 1854 she went to Boston, where she soon engaged in the temperance cause. She was treasurer of the first Woman's Christian Temperance Union formed in the city of Boston, as well as of the State organization. She was the first Chaplain of the Boston Reform Club, and held that position until the time of her removal from that city. Her husband was a member of the 35th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, enlisting in August, 1862, and served in the Army of the Potomac. Since coming to Minnesota, Mrs. Thyng has continued in the good work, and has lectured in different parts of the State under the auspices of the W. C. T. U.

#### LYLE VILLAGE.

This flourishing village is located in section 36, in the town by that name. Was platted in 1870, the plat containing forty acres.

#### UNION SUNDAY SCHOOL.

A Sunday School was organized in the summer of 1865, in the school house in sec-

tion 29. Mrs. Mary Martin was chosen superintendent. This was a union school. It has since been conducted under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal class. The custom has been to meet from spring till near the beginning of winter, and then adjourn to meet again in the following spring.

#### WOODBURY CHURCH OF CHRIST.

This religious society was organized in October, 1882, at the school house in section 29, by Rev. C. S. Beaulieu, after a series of protracted meetings lasting eleven days. There were fifteen members. The following is the list of officers:

Elders—D. Moshier, A. Howard.

Deacons—W. H. Martin, W. Case.

Trustees—C. Butts, J. Moshier, A. Howard.

Clerk—W. H. Martin.

A Sabbath School was organized in May, 1884, with W. H. Martin as superintendent. The society continues to worship in the school house, where meetings are held every Sunday, with preaching once in four weeks. Rev. Mr. Beaulieu is the pastor. The number of members is now nineteen.

#### LYLE VILLAGE.

The village of Lyle was incorporated on the 9th of March, 1875. It comprises the whole of section 36 in Lyle township. The following were of its first officers:

1875—Mayor and Justice of Peace, L. W. Sherman.

Councilmen—John Trodler, O. H. Lucken and J. H. McLoughlin.

Treasurer—T. Irgens.

Recorder—John Taskerud.

Constable—P. Knutson.

Assessor—P. McLoughlin.

1876—Mayor, L. W. Sherman.  
 Councilmen—P. Knutson and J. D. Myhre.

Recorder—Capt. W. Stanley.  
 Treasurer—T. Irgens.  
 Justice of the Peace—W. Stanley.  
 Marshal—Peter Knutson.

Assessor—Philip McLoughlin.  
 1877—Mayor, L. W. Sherman.  
 Council—Frank Jerabek.  
 Recorder—W. Stanley.

Treasurer—T. Irgens.  
 Marshal—Peter Knutson.

1878—Mayor, Philip McLoughlin.  
 Council—John Halverson.  
 Recorder—W. Stanley.

Treasurer—T. Irgens.  
 Marshal—Peter Knutson.

1879—Mayor, P. McLoughlin.  
 Recorder—W. Stanley.

Treasurer—A. O. Myhre.  
 Marshal—P. Knutson.

Assessor—T. Irgens.  
 1880—Mayor, Peter Hanson.

Councilman—T. Irgens.  
 Recorder—E. O. Fausett.  
 Marshal and Assessor—T. Hanson.

1881—Mayor, Frank Jerabek.  
 Councilman—A. H. Anderson.

Recorder—E. O. Fausett.  
 Treasurer—A. O. Myhre.

Marshal—J. J. Scott.  
 Assessor—L. W. Sherman.

1882—Mayor, P. McLoughlin.

Councilmen—J. O. Myhre, A. H. Anderson, T. Irgens.

Recorder and Justice of Peace—W. D. Dudley.

1883—Mayor, T. Irgens.

Councilman—E. L. Stanley.

Recorder—W. T. Dudley.

Justice of Peace—A. H. Anderson.

Treasurer—A. O. Myhre.

Marshal—J. O. Hildebrand.

Assessor—L. W. Sherman.

1884—Mayor, T. Irgens.

Councilman—J. H. Sherman.

Treasurer—A. H. Anderson.

Justice of the Peace and Recorder—L. D. Carter.

Marshal—Ed. Johnson.

Assessor—L. D. Carter.

The first house in the village was built by Thomas Irgens in 1870. It was a story and a half frame building, 32x20 feet, and stood on lot 17 of block 8. On the ground floor Irgens opened the first store in the village, putting in a stock of general merchandise. He started in trade on the 24th of August, 1870, and is still doing business in Lyle. On the 10th day of October the same year two more stores were opened in this place, one by John O. Myhre and George Anderson in a building on block 8, lot 20; the other by C. H. Cole on lot 16, block 8. Myhre & Anderson kept groceries and liquors. They were in trade one year when they sold out to Albert Thomson and John Gundersen. After a short time the latter sold his share to E. Olsen (whose name was subsequently changed to E. Fausett), while Thompson sold to John Taskerud. This firm gave up dealing in groceries and put in a stock of hardware, the first in the town. Taskerud soon disposed of his interest in the business to Olsen, who shortly after took in John Gundersen as a partner. J. F. Hummel became the next purchaser. He, in his

turn, sold to Peter Knudson, who was succeeded in the ownership by A. H. Anderson, the present proprietor.

John O. Myhre served one year as clerk in the employ of C. H. Cole. He then bought a half interest in that store. After a short time, Cole & Dow, who held the other half, sold theirs to John Taskerud. The business was continued under the firm name of Myhre & Taskerud. When the partnership was dissolved the stock was divided. Taskerud moved to another building, where he had previously started a drug store. He finally sold to J. S. Johnson. The business next passed into the hands of Frank Jerabek, who was in trade until 1881. In January of that year Jerabek was bought out by Capt. William Stanley & Son, who now conduct a good business in drugs, stationery, fancy goods and toilet articles.

John O. Myhre continues in business at the old stand, which is known as the Farmers' Store. He carries a large stock of general merchandise.

John O. Myhre, general merchant at Lyle, is a native of Norway, was born May 13th, 1843. His younger days were spent in school and on the farm, when eighteen years of age he left his native land and came to America, landed at Montreal and made his way directly to Chicago and from there to Manitowoc, Wisconsin, where he spent two weeks, and then went to Stevens Point, and stayed two months, and then to Jefferson Prairie, Wisconsin, and engaged farming for three years. In the meantime he attended the English school, from there he went to Decorah and engaged as a clerk in a hardware store for a few months, and then clerked

in a grocery and dry goods store until 1870, when he came to Lyle and engaged in business and has resided here since. He now carries a stock valued at \$8000. He was married to Anna Kettleson, also a native of Norway. They have three children, Oliver, Doretha and Theodore. Mr. Myhre has filled offices of trust in the village about eight years, and is at present a member of the council, also a member of the school board. Has filled the office of school treasurer for several terms.

Capt. William Stanley, druggist, Lyle village, was born in New York City, June 5, 1831. When he was an infant his parents moved to Albany, N. Y., living there until he was fourteen years old, when they returned to New York City. Received a common school education in the public schools. In 1849 he embarked as a sailor before the mast, on the Greenland Whaler McClellan of New London, Conn. Was absent in the Greenland seas from February until October, but continued to follow the sea until 1855, visiting the East Indies, Africa, Australia, China, South America, and California in its early day. He enlisted as a private June 28, 1855, in the 10th regiment United States Infantry, under Colonel E. B. Alexander. The regiment came to Minnesota in October, 1855, where he was stationed at Forts Snelling and Ridgley, during 1855-6-7. Was Sergeant October 1, 1855; First Lieutenant in 1856. In 1857, he went with the regiment to Utah, and served at Camps Scott and Floyd, Forts Bridges, Laramie and Kearney, until the spring of 1863, and then joined the Army of the Potomac. Re-enlisted May 1, 1860; appointed Regimental Sergeant-Major

June 1861. Participated in the battle of Chancellorsville, May 1, 2, and 3, 1863, and in the battle of Gettysburg, July 1, 2, 3, and 4, 1863, where he was wounded in the right leg, lying on the battle field forty-eight hours, when he was taken to the hospital at York, Pennsylvania: rejoined his regiment in New York City during the riots. Was commissioned Second Lieutenant in his regiment October 31, 1863, and appointed Regimental Adjutant, November 7, 1863, serving as such until his promotion as Captain, May, 1867. Stationed at Fort Lafayette, N. Y. H., during the winter of '63-4. Re-joined the Army of the Potomac in April 1864, and participated in the battle of the Wilderness and many other battles that the Army of the Potomac were engaged in, up to and including the battle of Cold Harbor, where he received a wound in the left arm, which necessitated amputation above the elbow. Brevetted First Lieutenant May 19, 1864, for conspicuous gallantry and meritorious services at the battle of Spottsylvania, Va. Promoted First Lieutenant June 1864. Brevetted Captain June 3, 1864, for conspicuous gallantry and meritorious services at the battle of Cold Harbor, Va. Was on mustering duty in Ohio for a short time, and rejoined regiment at Fort Hamilton, N. Y. H., December, 1864, and was stationed at Fort Porter, Buffalo, N. Y., during the Fenian excitement, until May, 1865, and then rejoined the Army of the Potomac. Participated in the Grand Review in Washington, D. C. Went to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, late in 1865, remaining there until May, 1866, thence to Fort Snelling, Minn. Appointed Captain 44th U. S. Infantry, July 28, 1866, but de-

clined. Promoted Captain 10th U. S. Infantry to date January 22, 1867, and joined his company, C. 10th regiment of infantry, in June 1867, at Fort Wadsworth, Dakota Territory. Commanded escort to General Terry, Department Commander, to the Missouri river during the summer of 1867, returning to Fort Wadsworth, where he was stationed until June 1869, when the regiment was sent to Texas, where, under orders reducing the army, the tenth and twenty-sixth regiments of infantry were consolidated, leaving the junior officers in each grade, of which class the subject of our sketch was one, on waiting orders. Remained in Texas on reconstruction duty, until July 14, 1870, when he was assigned to company D, 20th U. S. Infantry, stationed at Fort Abercrombie, Dakota Territory. He served at that Post and Fort Wadsworth D. T., and along the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad, during its construction through Dakota Territory to the Missouri river, during the years 1870-1-2-3, going to Fort Pembina, D. T., late in '73, where he was discharged from the service in October, 1874.

In August, 1875, he removed with his family to Lyle village, and opened an office as collection agent and general conveyancer etc., etc. Has held several offices of trust in the village. January 1, 1881; in company with his eldest son, purchased the drug business of Frank Jerabek, and has conducted that business since. Was married September 7, 1856, at Fort Ridgley, Minnesota, to Gertrude Olsen. They have had seven children born to them, three only, now living, Isabella, Edward L., and George Lyle. The Captain was accompanied by his noble wife

in all of his wanderings and removals during his army life, excepting the period when he was engaged fighting the battles of his country on the battle fields of Virginia, sharing the hardships and vicissitudes of a soldiers' life, both in tents and barracks. The Captain is now in receipt of a pension of thirty dollars per month.

#### LUMBER AND COAL.

William Colton was the first to engage in the lumber and coal trade here. He began in 1870, did a good business in lumber, but found little demand for coal. L. W. Sherman, who bought out Mr. Colton in 1871, continues to carry on a thriving trade.

Lorin W. Sherman came to Lyle in 1871, as agent for Bassett, Hunting & Co., buying grain. He soon engaged in the lumber and coal trade, and still continues to deal in the same. He owns a farm of 217 acres near the village of Lyle, and devotes part of his time to agricultural pursuits. He was born at Mayville, Chautauqua county, New York, March 11, 1840. His father, B. B. Sherman, was a native of Vermont, his mother a native of Massachusetts. When the subject of our sketch was 16 years of age his parents emigrated to Wisconsin and settled at Edgerton, Rock county. He made his home with his parents until 1864. He enlisted in the fall of that year in Company G, Thirty-eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and joined the army of the Potomac. Participated in the siege of Petersburg; was in a charge before that city; was wounded and sent to the hospital at Washington and was there when Lincoln was assassinated. He was discharged from the hospital at Madison in June, 1865 and returned to his home in

Rock county, where he remained a short time; then went to Iowa where he was in the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company until 1871, when he came to Lyle as before stated. He has been twice married; his first wife was Kate B. Wilcox, and four children blessed this union, named Burton, Louis, Edgar and Frank. Mrs. Sherman and the son Frank died in 1875, Burton and Edgar died of diphtheria in 1882. He was married in 1876 to Marion Wilcox, a sister of the first wife. Three children blessed this union, of whom two died in 1882; one is now living named Laura. Mr. Sherman has filled various offices of trust in the village; was the first mayor; was re-elected to that office several times.

#### POSTAL ACCOMMODATIONS.

A Postoffice was established in 1856, with W. Means as postmaster. This office was on the route from Osage to Owatonna, and the mail was received once a week. The successor of Means was D. L. Chandler, who kept the office at his house, in section 33, town of Austin. The office has since been discontinued.

#### WAREHOUSES AND ELEVATORS.

Bassett, Hunting & Co. erected the first warehouse in 1870. They were represented here by William Cotton, who was the first grain buyer in Lyle. At the end of a year Cotton was succeeded in his position by L. W. Sherman, who continued to transact the business of the firm until 1879. J. H. Sherman, a brother of L. W., became his immediate successor and is the present able representative of the firm.

In 1873 E. B. Walton built a warehouse.

Philip McLaughlin, his agent, bought wheat for Walton's mill, situated at Fairbury, Illinois. Walton sold the warehouse about two years later to Myhre & Johnson.

Warehouse number three was erected by Rhodes & Dayton, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, in 1874. Philip McLaughlin became the factor of this firm. He is now owner of the warehouse and carries on the business under his own name.

The first elevator was built in 1874, by an association of farmers, who employed H. C. Trowbridge to conduct the business. They sold it in 1877, to a company of ten men. The property next passed into the hands of Charles Whitton of Austin. E. H. Stone was employed to buy grain for Whitton. In 1878 Brown & Co., of Milwaukee, became the owners of the elevator, which is now leased by Bassett & Huntting. In 1875 the last named firm put up an elevator with a capacity of 16,000 bushels and furnished with steam power. Bassett & Huntting now have control of two warehouses with a united capacity of 9,000 bushels.

#### THE VILLAGE SMITHY.

The first blacksmiths in the town were M. O'Brien and T. S. Kilgore, who had shops here during the winter of 1870. Early in 1871 O'Brien moved the stock to Adams. Joseph Hall was the third blacksmith. He set up his forge in the spring of 1881. The following year he sold out to John Reinsmidt, who may still be found at the anvil. Mr. Reinsmidt now has a wagon shop in connection with the smithy, and does general repairing as well as shoeing. There being a constant call for skilled labor of this

kind, he usually has two young men in his employ.

John Reinsmidt came to Mower county in 1867, and located in Austin, where he worked at his trade as blacksmith for W. J. Brown. In 1872 he came to Lyle and bought the blacksmith shop, tools and good will of Hall & Still and has continued the business to the present. He was born in Germany, March 10, 1832, was the oldest son of Adam and Eve Reinsmidt. At 14 years of age he commenced to learn the blacksmith trade at which he worked until 20 years of age, when he was drafted into the army and served two years, when he came to America, landing at New Orleans after a voyage of 72 days. After a stop of a few days in New Orleans, he went to St. Louis, where he lived and worked at his trade until 1867. He was married in 1870 to Mary Olsen, a native of Norway. She died in 1877, leaving one child named Bertha. His second wife was Barbara Holenback, a native of Austin. They have three children named Joseph, Mary, and one infant not named.

The first harness shop in Lyle was opened by Peter Hanson in 1874. Mr. Hanson is a good workman and his shop is well patronized.

Peter Hanson, a native of Denmark, was born June 7, 1840. He remained with his parents until fourteen years of age, when he went to work on a farm, remaining until he was 24 years of age, when he learned the harness trade, owned and ran a shop of his own. He came to the United States in 1870, and landed at New York, then came directly to Freeborn county, Minnesota,

where he remained six weeks, then went to Cedar Falls, Iowa, where he remained for a year and a half at work on the railroad. In 1873 he opened a harness shop at Cedar Falls, Iowa, where he was in business for one year. In 1874 he transferred his goods to the village of Lyle, and opened the first harness shop. He has since erected a good building, and has a fine stock of goods of his own manufacture.

He has been twice married. His first wife was Mary Samson, to whom he was married February 19, 1869. She died May 28, 1878, and left two children, Hannah and Anna. Mr. Hanson was married to his present wife in September, 1877. By this marriage there are two children, Henry W. and Sophia R. The present Mrs. Hanson was formerly Miss Stenna Robertson. Mr. Hanson has been prominent in town affairs and at one time was mayor of the village.

#### MEAT MARKET.

John Hader and Peter Schodson opened the first meat market in the village, which they kept for about two years, and then sold to Philip Bower. After this it passed successively into the hands of J. B. Hildebrand and E. H. Ahrens. The last named is running the business yet.

E. H. Ahrens, a native of Germany, was born in December, 1844. He attended school and assisted his parents on their farm until 1866, when he left his native country and came to America. He landed at New York after a voyage of eleven days. He remained in the City of New York six or seven weeks and then went to Columbia county, Wisconsin, where he remained for two and a half years. He then came to Mitchell county,

Iowa, where he settled on a farm till 1876, when he left his farm and settled in Adams, where he was engaged in buying farm produce for Bassett & Hunting, of McGregor. He remained there three years, when he went to Otranto Station, Iowa, and took a position with the same firm and remained there until 1883, when he came to Lyle and bought out the butcher shop of J. B. Hildebrand, which he still runs. He was married in October, 1873, to Magdalena Hildebrand. She was the oldest daughter of the Reverend Christian Hildebrand's second wife. They have three children, Clara, Albert and Adolph.

Andrew O. Myhre, of the firm of Myhre & Sund, was born in Norway, October 8, 1838. He remained at home until 15 years of age, when he engaged with a tailor to learn the trade and worked eighteen months. He then worked as a journeyman in Christiania and other places until 1864, when he came to America, landed at New York, May 27th, 1864, and went directly to Beloit and worked at his trade for two years, then went to Emmet county, Iowa, and took a homestead and engaged in farming. He remained on his farm until 1872, when he sold out and came to Lyle and engaged clerking for seven years, when he bought one half interest in the store with J. F. Hummel and was in trade two years. In 1882, he formed his present partnership. He was married in 1862 to Stena Sund. She was born in Norway the 26th of February, 1836. They have had eight children, only four are living; Olaus, Gustav, Ida, Dorthea, Theodore, Anna and Emelie.

Ole T. Lund, of the firm of Myhre & Sund, general merchants at Lyle, was born



*Edwin Richards*

in Norway, September 1, 1848. He spent his time at school and on the farm until he was 15 years old, when he was apprenticed to a tailor to learn the trade, and served four years. In 1868 he left his native land and came to America and landed at Quebec, and went directly to Columbia county, Wisconsin, and worked in the harvest field that summer. In the spring of 1869 he went to Chicago, where he worked at his trade until 1882, when he came to Lyle and purchased an interest in his present business.

He was married in 1872 to Emma T. Thompson, also born in Norway, October 14, 1848. She died March 1, 1884, and left one child, Ida Rebecca. They have lost two children: Oscar Theodore died in 1881, Matilda Susanna died in 1879.

J. B. Hildebrand, proprietor of the "Hildebrand House," is the son of Christian and Mary Hildebrand. He was born in Canada, January 7th, 1853, lived with his parents until he was twenty-three, when he went for himself, opened a meat market and continued in the same for five years, when he sold to Amil Ehrans, who continues in the trade at present. Then he bought the only hotel in the village and opened it as the Hildebrand House, has a livery stable in connection, and is now running one of the best houses in Southern Minnesota. He has also a billiard hall for the accommodation of his guests. He has a grain warehouse, where he stores farm produce, bought from the farmers. He was married to Miss Josephine Olson, July 20, 1886. She was the second daughter of L. Y. Olson; was born in Illinois, 1862. They are the parents of one child, named Mabel, they lost one child—its name was Ralph A.

His mother now resides in the village of Adams. He has been prominent in town and county affairs; has held the office of marshal in the village; is at present the Deputy Sheriff of this part of the county.

Bernt D. Hedemark, boot and shoe dealer, is a native of Norway; was born July 18th, 1851, and lived with his folks until he was fourteen years old, when he was apprenticed to a shoemaker. In 1873, he came to America and landed at New York, and came directly to Lyle, Mower county, Minnesota. In 1875, he engaged in the boot and shoe business, making and repairing. He has since put in a nice stock of boots and shoes, and is the only one in that trade at Lyle. He started first with Peter Johnson as partner, but he only remained one year, when Mr. Hedemark bought Johnson out, and is now running the business alone. He was married to Miss Olivia Larson, in September, 1873. She was a native of Norway, and came to this country the same time her husband came. They have five children, Ole, Dina L., Linna M., Bernhard and Oscar L.

Ed. Johnson, furniture dealer, is a native of Norway, born June 9, 1859. Left his native land with parents at the age of 2 years. Landed at Quebec, coming directly to Mower county, where his father settled in the town of Adams. Ed. lived with his father until 21 years of age, when he went to Minneapolis and learned the painter's art, which he followed for a living until December, 1883, when he opened a furniture house in the village of Lyle, where he still resides. He has taken an active part in town affairs; is now the village marshal.

The first railway station agent at this place

was O. N. Darling, who took the position in 1870. The second agent was Frank Jerebek. The third is the present incumbent, Peter McCulley.

Dr. A. Thrane was the first physician in the village. He came here in 1870, practiced for a few years and then removed to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where he now lives. Dr. Turner also came to Lyle in 1870. He was followed in 1871 by M. C. Gordon, B. A., O. S., from Montreal, who stayed but a few months and then returned to Canada.

The first religious service in the village was held in the waiting room of the railway station by a missionary. No church has ever been organized here.

School District No. 9. This is an independent district, which was organized on February 20, 1874. A house was built early in the season, and Miss Diantha Kilgore taught here during the summer time. Three years later, a fine frame building, 28x44 feet and 24 feet high, was erected for the school, at a cost of \$3,100. It is well finished, and is by far the best school house in the county outside of Austin. Sherwin Clow was the first to practice pedagogy within its walls; Linna B. Evans, of Osage, Iowa, is now the latest. Prior to the organization of the district, a school was taught by Izvia Clark, in

a house owned by William Moran. This was in the summer of 1873.

ALMA LODGE, NO. 131, A. F. AND A. M.

The charter of this lodge was granted on May 26, 1877. The first meeting was held June 9, when the following officers were elected: J. L. Bowers, W. M.; F. M. Howard, S. W.; R. B. Foster, J. W.; J. C. Van-Camp, Treas. and Sec'y; J. R. Delaney, S. D.; J. S. Johnson, J. D.; David West, Tyler.

The lodge has a membership of forty, all in good standing, and possesses fine rooms over the store of William Stanley & Son. The present officers are: J. S. Bowers, W. M.; M. E. Bowers, S. W.; W. F. Dudley, J. W.; G. C. Allen, Treas.; E. L. Stanley, Sec'y; Knut Knudson, S. D.; A. O. Myhre, J. D.; E. A. Knudson, Tyler.

Alma Lodge was organized by Hon. W. T. Wilkins, of Austin.

The village, in 1881, bought five acres of land and laid out a pleasant park, with three thousand trees set therein. The same year was erected a village office 20x24 feet, and 12 feet high. This is situated on the southwest corner of the park. The village is also provided with a strong calaboose, which it is to be hoped, is not often tenanted. There are three saloons, at an annual license of \$500 each. Lyle village has \$2,500 in the treasury, and no debt.

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

## MARSHALL TOWNSHIP.

Marshall township comprises congressional township 102 north, range 16 west. It is bounded on the north by Dexter, east by Clayton, south by Adams and west by the town of Windom. The surface is generally quite level and almost the entire township is composed of prairie. The only natural grasses were found in sections 3, 4, 34, 35 and 36. The town is truly rural, there being no village or hamlet within its borders. The town is drained by Rose Creek and the Little Cedar river. One branch of Rose Creek heads in section 11 of this town. One branch of the Little Cedar has its source in the northwest quarter of section 16; another branch in sections 26 and 27; another branch comes from the town of Clayton, cuts across the corner of section 36. There are some small lakes in the township that cover from one-eighth to one-half an acre of ground. Two of these lakes are to be found on section 16, another on section 21. The soil is a rich dark loam. The inhabitants engage in mixed husbandry and are prosperous. Flax is cultivated to quite an extent.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement in the town was made in the spring of 1856, by Helge Errickson, a native of Norway, who came here from Wisconsin, and settled on the west half of the southwest quarter of section 36. Here he built the first house in the town. It was of logs, covered with shacks, and had a puncheon floor. He made his home here until 1871, when he sold his farm and moved to Otter Tail county, where he has since died.

In 1857 John Osmunsen, also a native of Norway, came from Wisconsin and settled on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 36. He also built a log house. It was in this humble abode that the first white child in the town was born. Mr. Osmunsen was an industrious man, improved a farm and made it his home until the time of his death. His widow and family still occupy the homestead.

About 1860 Ole Tollefson and Gilbert Anderson came and settled on section 36. They were both natives of Norway and improved farms here. Tollefson made this his home

until the time of his death. His family now live in Dakota.

Stark Peterson is still a resident of the town. He came in 1865.

John Osmunsen is one of the pioneers of Marshall; was born in Norway, February 11, 1887. He followed the sea in his youth; at sixteen he engaged with a shoemaker to learn the trade, which he worked at in summer and fished in winter. In 1855, he came to America; landed at Quebec; made his way to Illinois, then to Wisconsin, where he was married in the spring of 1857, to Syrena Hanson, coming directly to Minnesota to seek a home, which they found in Mower county on section thirty-six, now known as the town of Marshall. He built a substantial log house, which the family occupied until 1874, when he built a frame house, where he lived at the time of his death, August, 1882. Mr. Osmunsen was an industrious man, successful as a farmer, and had the confidence of the people. He served the town in the capacity of Treasurer for several years. His wife and six children survive him. The names of the children are: Hannah, the first white child born in the town, Caroline, Isabelle, Rachel, Henriette and Henry. Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Osmunsen has managed the farm.

Stark Peterson was born in Norway, April 29, 1840. When he was ten years of age, his father died, and he was obliged to earn his own living. He found employment in farming until seventeen years of age, when he went to sea and followed the life of a sailor four years, then returned home and engaged in farming until 1863, when he left his native land and came to America, and came direct-

ly to Wisconsin, where he spent four months, then started with ox teams for Mower county. Taking provisions along, he camped on the way. After four weeks' travel he arrived in Adams township, where he purchased the southwest quarter of section 4. It was wild land at the time. He built a house and broke fifteen acres of land. Eighteen months latter he sold and came to Marshall, and purchased the north one-half of the northwest quarter of section 36. He has since purchased other land and now has 200 acres. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson are the parents of twelve children, named Peter J., Stephen C., Andrew, Jacob, Severt B., Betsy E. M. Sarah S. M., Eleas, Charlie L., Peter M., Berthe M., Eliza S.

The first settlement in the north part of the town was made in 1857 by Mahlon Parritt and his son Dexter. They located on the northwest quarter of section 3. Dexter pre-empted 160 acres of land in that section. In the fall of that year they removed to section 33, town 103 north, range 15 west, now known as the town of Dexter. The father made his home there until the time of his death. The son, Dexter, in whose honor the town was named, lived there until 1882, when he returned to his original settlement in Marshall, which he now occupies.

Mahlon Parritt, one of the pioneers of the county, was born in the State of New Jersey in 1789. When quite young his parents moved to Pennsylvania, where he grew to manhood. When a young man he learned the trade of clothier. He followed this trade until 1844, when he engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was married twice. His first wife was Miss Morgan, who bore him three chil-

dren, but they are all dead. One of the sons by this marriage, named Emlen, was highly educated. He taught school in Ohio, and was superintendent of schools in Wayne county, Ohio. He became Professor in the Medical College in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he died. Mr. Parritt's second wife was Mary McCammet, a native of Pennsylvania. By this marriage there were five children; only two are living, Dexter and Mary. When Mr. Parritt was first married, he moved to Eastern Pennsylvania, where he buried his first wife and two children. In 1832 he moved to Ohio, and lived there until 1857, when he came to Mower county. They came from Pennsylvania with one two-horse team, and a one horse rig. They started the last day of March, and arrived in Mower county May 12th, and spent the first night with John L. Johnson. The next day they started out on the prairie to look for the number of their land, and got lost. They traveled all day, and at night were three miles from the place where they started from in the morning. The next day they found the land. The family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Parritt, their son Dexter, then a young man, and two little children. The family lived in their wagon until the men broke fifteen acres of land and planted seed corn, buckwheat, and garden vegetables. In July they built a log stable, in which they lived until fall. In the meantime they had erected a log house on the southeast quarter of section 33, in what is now known as the town of Dexter. Mr. Parritt died here in 1861, and his wife in 1870. Their son Dexter, who now lives in the town of Marshall, was born January 19, 1824. He made his home with his par-

ents until 1852, when he engaged on board a steamboat running on the Ohio and Mississippi river, where he remained until 1857, when he came back to Minnesota, and has since remained here, and has been prominent in town matters. He is a great reader, and keeps himself posted in public affairs. He was chairman of the first board of supervisors in the town of Dexter.

The second settler in the north part of the town was Michael Luney, a native of Ireland, who came here from Ottumwa, Iowa, in 1861. He had previously pre-empted the northwest quarter of section 5, and the north half of the southwest quarter of the same section. He remained here but two years, when he returned to Iowa.

Amasa N. Converse, a native of Jefferson county, York State, came after the war and settled on the northeast quarter of section 3. He was an enterprising man and started a cheese factory here. He afterward bought grain at Dexter. While living here he was married to a daughter of D. G. Pearce. In 1875 he moved to Jackson county, where he died a short time later. His widow is now the wife of Irvin Converse and lives at Dexter.

William Godard came with Mr. Converse and settled on the northwest quarter of section 2, where he lived but a few years, then sold and moved to the lumber regions, and later to Central Iowa, where he now lives.

Biographical sketches of prominent settlers of a later date appear in this work.

This was one of the townships of land that were thrown onto the market in an early day, and was bought by speculators, who held the

land at high figures, and thus retarded the settlement.

Governor Marshall purchased four large tracts of land in the township. In 1868 he commenced improvements on this land. He sold it a few years later to W. H. Dean, a wealthy man, who had formerly been engaged in business in New York City and later in St. Paul. Mr. Dean became a resident of the town and continued the good work of improvement until the time of his death.

One of the most extensive farmers in the town is Willis M. Corbitt, son of M. L. and Mary (Freeman) Corbitt. He was born in Steuben county, New York, in June, 1846. When he was but 12 years of age his parents emigrated to Minnesota and settled in Olmsted county, where he grew to manhood. His early education was received in the common school, and advanced by one year's attendance at the State Normal school. He was joined in marriage November 18, 1872, to Elizabeth Bacon, daughter of Samuel Bacon, a pioneer of LeRoy township. She was born at Burlington, Wisconsin. At the time of his marriage he settled on the place which he now occupies. He had purchased this land in 1868; it was at the time unimproved. He has improved the land and purchased other lands adjoining, and now has 400 acres in a body. He pays considerable attention to the dairy, and raises cattle and sheep, of which he has a large flock. Mr. Corbitt has taken a lively interest in public affairs, and by extensive reading keeps himself well posted. He has been elected to town offices ever since its organization; serving as chairman of the board, and mayor

part of the time. He is at present justice of peace. Mr. and Mrs. Corbitt have two children, Lewis and Arthur.

George W. Phillips came to Mower county in 1874 and bought 120 acres of unimproved prairie land, on the northeast quarter of section 21. He spent the winter with the Corbitt Brothers. The following spring he built a house and has since improved the greater portion of his land, and has planted a fine grove; also fruit trees. He is engaged in raising horses and cattle as well as grain. He was born in the town of Columbus, Columbia county, Wisconsin, February 22, 1849. The subject of our sketch grew to manhood in the town of his birth and received his education in the district school. In February, 1865, he enlisted in the Fifty-first Wisconsin, Company C, and went South, and served until the close of the war; was discharged with his regiment August 18, 1865, and returned home. That same fall his father sold his farm in Wisconsin and came to Olmsted county, Minnesota, and bought a farm in the town of Marion. The subject of our sketch made his home with his parents until 1869, when he was married to Mary Heath. She is a native of Wisconsin. They lived in Olmsted county after their marriage, until 1874, when they came to Mower county. They have five children, Cora, Jessie, Lettie, William and Jennie. Mr. Phillips has been quite prominent in town affairs, having held various offices of trust.

#### ORGANIZATION.

This was organized as a separate township in 1870. At a meeting held June 6th of that

year at the house of M. L. Corbitt, the following officers were elected :

Supervisors—W. L. Godard, Ch'n ; W. M. Corbitt and Gilbert Anderson.

Clerk—A. N. Converse.

Treasurer—A. M. Converse.

Assessor—G. W. Corbitt.

Justices of the Peace—G. W. Corbitt and Stark Peterson.

Constables—Henry Stockwell and John O. Wold.

At the annual election held in March, 1871, the following resolutions were presented and adopted :

“First. That we regard our town as in its infancy being the youngest of her sisters in this county.

“Second. That we approved of the law changing the time of holding the annual meeting from April to March.

“Third. That we are in favor of and approve of changing the name from Beach to Marshall.

“Fourth. That the interest of education, churches, school houses and public highways shall not be neglected or overlooked in our town.

“Fifth. That we favor moral, temperance men for office.

“Sixth. That we know of no organization that would do more, or as much, to advance the welfare of and prosperity of this county, as the organization of a monthly fair. Wherefore, we would suggest, recommend and promise to aid in establishing a monthly fair, to be organized and held at Austin—once in each month.

“Eighth. That we do not approve of woman suffrage yet for a while.”

*Resolved* in regard to State affairs :

First, That we are sick and tired of so much State legislation on the bond question.

Second, That while we look upon insolvency and poverty as misfortunes, we look upon repudiation as wicked and shameful.

Third, That if the bonds of the State were

intended to be good when made, they should be paid to the letter.

The following named have held office in the town since its organization :

M. L. Corbitt, W. M. Corbitt, G. W. Phillips, J. M. Ray, James O. Wold, Fred Ray, J. A. Olson, Ole T. Throveson, Ole Anderson, Samson Hanson, Asher Herick, Knud Olson, John Osmunsen, James Everson, E. F. Nelson, Hans Anderson, A. G. Anderson, Swan Anderson, Peter Johnson, J. K. Johnson, August Anderson, Ole S. Forde, John Peterson, B. G. Haugen, L. G. Phillips, Anton Asper, James Olson, Fred Rolf, Stark Peterson.

Andrew R. Anderson, the present town clerk, was born in Norway, November 17th, 1855. When he was thirteen years old he came to America with his parents and located at Decorah, Iowa, where he grew to manhood, spending his time in school and on the farm. When he was nineteen years old he went to Dakota; it was the summer of the grasshopper plague; he remained a short time and then came to Mower county. In 1874, he bought eighty acres of unimproved land in section 25. He has since improved the greater part of the land, and built a frame house, which he now occupies. He was joined in marriage in 1879, to Elizabeth Rasmusson, a daughter of Mr. Rasmusson, one of the pioneers of the town of Adams. They have three children, named Robert A., Andrew O. and Emma Syrenius. Mr. Anderson was assessor in his town for several terms. Although Mr. Anderson has never attended any high institutions of learning, he has by self-study attained quite a thorough education. Last fall he applied to Mr. Bel-

den, the present Superintendent of schools of Mower county, for a certificate to teach, which was granted, and Mr. Anderson taught last winter's term of school in the district in which he resides.

Ole Anderson, chairman of the present board of supervisors, was born in Norway, August 5, 1847. In 1867 he came to America with his parents, who located at Decorah, Iowa, where he made his home until 1874, when he went to Dakota, traveling with a pair of oxen and a wagon. He made a claim in Minnehaha county, built a cabin and broke a few acres of land, but the grasshoppers came and destroyed his crop and he then came to Mower county and purchased the south half of the northeast quarter of section 25, town of Marshall. He has erected a set of frame buildings and planted a grove. Is now engaged raising grain and stock.

He married Jane Peterson in 1866. They have three children living, named Peter, Tilda and Josephine. He was a member of the board five years before being elected chairman.

James Olson, a member of the board of supervisors, came to Mower county in 1870, and stopped in the town of Adams, where he was employed on the railroad four years, and in other employment two years. In 1875 he bought the northeast quarter of section 22, town of Marshall. It was wild prairie land at the time. He hired the first breaking done on the place that year, settling there the following year. He has improved the land and erected a frame house and granary. He was born in Norway August 15, 1850. In 1870 he emigrated to

America, landing at Quebec the 9th day of July of that year. He was joined in marriage March 16, 1876, to Susan Ellingson. They have two children named Emma J. and Elling.

Brede P. Haugen, the town treasurer, was born in Norway, July, 1849. Lived with his parents until 1870, then came to America, locating in Mitchell county, Iowa. He made his home with his parents until 1876, then bought 160 acres of wild land in the town of Marshall. He bought a frame house, moved it onto the land, and being a single man washed his own dishes in summer and spent the winter in Iowa until 1882, when he married Anna Nelson. She was a native of Norway. They had two children, named Nichols and Minnie Pauline. He was elected to the present office in 1882.

Andrew A. Wiste came to Mower county in 1874, and engaged in farming in the town of Adams one month, then went to Clayton, and purchased wild land in sections 30 and 31. He improved 100 acres of the land. In 1882 he sold and purchased 160 acres in section 27, town of Marshall. He was born in Norway, September 22, 1851. Came to America with his parents, when he was fifteen years of age, and settled in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he made his home until 1874. He was married in 1880, to Hannah Osmunsen, the first white child born in the town, daughter of John and Hannah Osmunsen. They have two children, named Annie and Josephine.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The town is divided into four school districts, all supplied with good houses, well furnished. The schools have generally been

presided over by efficient teachers, and the scholars have, as a rule, evinced an interest by prompt attendance.

District No. 65. This district was organized in 1867, at a meeting held at the house of Ole Talefson. The following named constituted the board of directors: Stark Peterson, Gilbert Anderson, and Thomas Knudson. The first term of school was taught in Helga Erickson's house, by Rosella Bourgard. The school house, when built, was located in the southeast quarter of section 35. In 1879 it was moved to the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 25. Ida Waite was the first teacher in the house after it was moved to its present location.

District No. 81. This district was the second organized in the township. It was about 1876, and a frame house was erected on section 2. It seems they had built the house before they had use for it, as no school was taught until 1878. Ida Waite taught the first term of school.

No. 105. This district was organized in 1879, and a house erected at a cost of \$300. The building was located on the northwest of section 34. The school was taught by Annie Christopherson, from Udolpho.

No. 103. This district was organized September 20, 1879, at a meeting held at the house of Swen Anderson. The following officers were elected: George W. Phillips, Treasurer; Willis M. Corbitt, Clerk; Swen Anderson, Director. A school house was erected that fall, which cost \$1,000. The first term of school was taught by George Emery, in the winter of 1879-80.

#### FIRST BIRTH.

The first white child born was Hannah,

daughter of John and Syrena Osmunsen. She is now the wife of Andrew Wiste, and is still a resident of the town.

Erasmus Rasmusson came to Mower county in 1857, and located in the town of Adams, where he was an early settler. He took government land in section 4, erected a log house, which he partly covered with boards and partly with shakes. He lived there but a few years, then traded for land in the town of Clayton, where he lived until 1874, when he sold and went to Dakota, and took a claim in Lincoln county. He broke 50 acres of the land, then returned for his family, then removed to Dakota with them the following spring. He put in a crop that season which was destroyed by the grasshoppers. He then abandoned his claim and came back to Mower county and settled in the town of Marshall. In 1882 he purchased his present farm, located in section 35. He is a native of Norway, born in June, 1829. His father was a sailor, and the subject of our sketch went to sea with him when quite young. Later he engaged in farming in the summer season, and went fishing in winter. In 1856 he emigrated to America, landed at Quebec, and made his way directly to Wisconsin, and stayed one year in Rock county; then bought a pair of oxen and started for Mower county. After two weeks' travel he reached Mower county and located in the town of Adams, as before stated. He has been twice married; the first time in Rock county. His wife died soon after coming to Mower county, leaving one child, named Elizabeth, now the wife of Andrew R. Anderson. By his second wife he has four sons; Erasmus, John, Martin and Egburt.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

## NEVADA TOWNSHIP.

Nevada comprises congressional township 101 north, range 17 west. It is bounded on the north by Windom, east by Lodi, south by Mitchell county, Iowa, and west by the town of Lyle. The surface in the north part of the town is quite level, and does not drain readily, while the south part is gently rolling. Six Mile grove (so called) is located in this township, covering portions of sections 21, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32. This was, in an early day, heavily timbered. The most of the virgin timber has been cut and the ground is now covered with a flourishing second growth. The soil in the south part of the town is a black loam. In the north part of the town the soil is a very dark aluvial deposit. The soil in all parts of the town is very rich and grows all kinds of cereals and grasses.

The first settlers in this town were, as a rule, prosperous, and there are probably more of the first settlers occupying their original claims in this township than most any other township in the county.

The surface of the township is drained by

Otter Creek, which has its source in this town. One branch rises in the southwest quarter of section 26. It passes across the corners of sections 35 and 34, then courses northwest through sections 27 and 28. It then takes a southwesterly course to section 23, thence through sections 30 and 31, leaving the town from the southwest corner of the latter section. Another branch rises in the north part of the town, flows in a southerly course and makes confluence with the main branch in section 28.

The township is well supplied with stone, as well as wood and water. There have been two stone quarries opened in the town, one by Peter Martin, on the northwest quarter of section 25, and one by Gunder Halverson, in the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 29. The stone is mostly used for building cellars and for the foundation of buildings.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT.

When the town was first settled the nearest market place was McGregor, Iowa. The first permanent settlers of the town were na-

tives of Norway. Most of them brought some cattle and hogs to town with them, but the raising of pork was not as profitable as now, for oftentimes after teaming the pork to McGregor, a distance of 120 miles, they were obliged to sell for one and one-half cents per pound, dressed weight. McGregor was for a time their wheat market. The settlers were generally provided with ox teams, and a trip to market generally consumed ten or twelve days, but in stormy weather and bad roads it would take much longer. It was the custom in pleasant weather to take provisions along and camp on the way, but this would not answer in cold, stormy weather and they were obliged to put up at the hotels along the route, which was rather expensive. Wheat often sold as low as forty cents per bushel, and sometimes the expense of the trip would be more than the returns for the wheat. In that case the tired granger would return home with empty pockets, and worse than all, had left bills behind to pay on the next trip. As to the change that has taken place no one can fully realize, except those who have experienced it.

This was one of the first settled towns in the county, having been first settled early in 1854.

The first man to make a claim in the town was one William Allen, formerly from Massachusetts. He claimed the southwest quarter of section 29, which was valuable on account of the timber and water. Here he erected the first house in the town, if it can be called a house. It was of logs, 8x10, and covered with basswood bark. Mr. Allen made no improvement whatever, but waited patiently

for some one to come along and buy his claim. In October of that year he sold to Gunder Halverson. He, however remained on the place until the spring of 1855, when he moved to the town of Lyle, where he stopped for a time, then went to Oregon.

The first permanent settlement in the town was made by Thov Olson, early in the spring of 1854. Olson was a native of Norway, who stopped for a short time in Mitchell county, Iowa. He first made a claim in section 29. He then built the second house in town. It was also a log house. He split shacks to cover the roof and made puncheon for the floor. A few months later he sold that claim and located another in sections 32-33. He afterwards sold that and bought land in sections 16, 17, 21. He remained a resident of the town until 1872, when he sold and moved to Becker county, where he died September 21st, 1874. His son Halver is still a resident of the town, occupying the north one-half of the northwest quarter of section twenty-one.

Halver Thorvson, a son of Thov Olson, the first settler in the town of Nevada, was born in 1846, and came to America with his parents when but five years old. They landed at Quebec, and went directly to Milwaukee, and then to Dane county, Wisconsin, where they remained through the winter and in the spring of 1852, went to Mitchell county, Iowa, where they remained until the spring of 1853, when they came to Mower county and town of Nevada. He lived with his parents until 1872, when he bought the north half of the northwest of section 21. He purchased this piece of land from his father, Thov Olson. He also owns the southwest

quarter of the southwest quarter of section 16 and the north half of the north half of the southeast quarter of section 17, and the north half of the northwest of section 21. He also owns 25 acres of timber land; about 100 acres of the land is improved. He is engaged raising grain and stock. He was joined in marriage in 1881, to Annie Olson, widow of Elef T. Olson. Two children have blessed this union, named Thea Emilia and Carl Albert. Mrs. Thorvson has one child by her first marriage named Thov Henry. He was born February 28, 1875.

The next settlement in the town was made in June, 1854, by Andreas Anderson, Martin Hanson and Peter Martin. These were natives of Norway; came here from Dane county, Wisconsin, via Calmer, Iowa. Anderson was a blacksmith by trade. He settled on the south one-half of the northeast quarter of section 28. He built a log cabin which he first covered with bark and later put sod on top of that. The floor was made of puncheon. He set up his forge under an oak tree, and there probably done the first blacksmithing in Mower county. He afterward built a shop in which he worked at his trade three years. At this time his tools were stolen and he no longer worked at his trade, but devoted his time to the improvement of his farm. He lived to see the county well developed. His death occurred in June, 1875. His son, Hans C., now occupies the old homestead.

Hanson settled on the north one-half of the southeast of section 28. He also erected a log cabin which he covered with bark. He lived in that cabin a few years, then erected a substantial log house, which he occupied

until the time of his death, in the spring of 1867.

Peter Martin was a son of Martin Hanson. He took a claim in the southwest of section 21. He lived one year with his father, then built a house on his land, which he still occupies. He was born in Norway in 1832. He attended school until 16 years of age, then worked on the farm. In 1853 in company with his parents left his native land and came to America, landing at Quebec after a voyage of ten weeks. The family first located in Dane county, where they remained eleven months, then started with ox teams for Mower county, and settled in the town of Nevada as before stated. He has been twice married. His first wife, to whom he was married in 1853, was Ann Anderson. She was a native of Norway, born in 1826. She died in October, 1870, leaving four children, named Martin, Andrew, John and Maria. His second marriage occurred in 1873. By this union there were two children, named Clara and Albert. He was drafted in 1863, but was rejected on account of disability.

In the summer of 1854, the following named settlers arrived: Ole Anderson and his brother Knud Anderson Quaile, Aslak Olson, Thron Richardson, Ole Sampson, Swan Gorganson and Hans Swenson. The Anderson brothers came from Winneshiek county, Iowa. Ole settled on the north one-half of the northeast of section 28, where he still lives. Knud settled on the southeast quarter of section 21. He now lives on the west one-half of that quarter. Sampson settled on the northeast of section 29. He now lives on the northeast of section 33.

Olson settled on the place he now occupies, the southwest of section 28. Richardson settled on the southeast of section 29. His death occurred there in 1882. His son Ole occupies the homestead.

Gorganson settled where he now lives, on the southeast of section 31. Hans Swenson first settled on the north one-half of the southeast quarter of section 29. In the winter of 1854-5 his son Christopher, then a lad of nine years, killed a deer with an ax. Mr. Swenson now lives on the southwest quarter of section 27. Gunder Halverson, also a native of Norway, came in the fall of 1854, and purchased Allen's claim. He settled there the following spring. He is well educated in English, as well as Norwegian, and in many ways he has been of great assistance to his people. In 1855 the following named came: James Gerard, Mathias ———

Knud Anderson Quaille was born in Norway in December, 1823, and attended school in his early days, meantime helping on his father's farm until he was seventeen years old, and for that year's work he received three dollars and clothes, and continued farming until he was twenty-five years old, when he left his native land and came to America, landing at New York after a voyage of ten weeks and two days. He started for Milwaukee, coming to Albany by rail, then by canal to Buffalo, thence to Milwaukee by the lakes. This was in 1849. From there he hired teams to take him to Post Washington; then he went to the Michigan pineries, and there he remained four years, and followed lumbering, after which he came to Iowa, but did not stay there long, as he made up his mind that he could make more

money in the lumber country, so he returned to Wisconsin. After remaining one year, he came to Mower county. Mr. Anderson was married to Miss Anna Johnson, July 6, 1853. She was also a native of Norway. She was born July 6, 1835, and came with her parents to this country in 1852. The vessel that they were on was lost on Lake Erie, and about eighty-four of her countrymen were lost, also her father, mother, three brothers and one sister. She was saved, and she also saved her youngest sister. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have six children, Martha, Mary, Andrew, Julia, John and Anna. Mr. Anderson has for his residence the building that was built for a hotel by James Gerard. It was the first hotel in the town, which was built in the fall of 1856.

Hans Swensen was born in Norway in October, 1818, there being reared on a farm and receiving a common school education. In 1851 he emigrated to America and located in Boone county, Illinois, where he was employed farming, remaining there until 1854, when he came to Mower county, as before stated. He built first a bark house, in which the family lived one year. Then he erected a good log house. Having no team he did not break any land the first year, so did not raise a crop, but as game, such as elk and deer, was plenty, they did not suffer for want of fresh meat. His son, Christopher, then nine years of age, killed a deer with an ax. Mr. Swenson had a coffee mill in which, in the winter of 1854-55, he ground six bushels of corn and four bushels of wheat.

He was married to a Miss Gumell. She died in 1874, at the age of 76 years.

There were two children by this union, named Elizabeth and Christopher. He married the second time in 1882. There are two children by this marriage, named Christopher and Olaff.

Ole Sampson, one of the pioneers of 1854, came to Mower county from Boon county, Illinois. Mr. Sampson made his journey with ox team, camping on the way. He was four weeks on the way. He arrived here in June, and settled on northeast quarter of section 29, and lived there one year, when he built a small shanty 10x12, and covered it with bark and sod. From there he went to section 30, the southeast quarter, and there lived one summer under a shed covered with wild hay and no protection, with the exception of where he had his bed, he turned up his wagon box on the edge, to shelter him. That fall he built a good log house, the best in town at that time, living there one year, when he went to the northeast quarter of section 33, where he erected a good log house and lived there twenty-five years. Then he erected a large frame house, about eighty feet west of the old one, which he has finished off in good order and now occupies. He has a large frame barn and granary, also. He devotes his time to raising stock. Mr. Sampson was born in Norway, June 17, 1826. When young he attended school and assisted his folks on the farm until he was fifteen years of age, after which he worked out by the month for two years at farming. At the age of seventeen he commenced the trade of stone mason, working for the government three years. He was then drafted and served two years, and in 1851, came to America, landing at New York. He im-

mediately started west, going to Columbia county, Wisconsin, where he remained on a farm one year, after which he went to Chicago, where he worked at his trade two summers, and one winter he spent in Mississippi, where he was engaged on a boat on the river, and from there came to Boon county, Illinois, remaining there until 1854, when he came to Mower county. Mr. Sampson was married to Miss Mary Christopherson. She was a native of Norway, where she was born July 18, 1831. Mr. and Mrs. Sampson are the parents of nine children, viz.: Anna, Julia, Christina, Christophor, Kirstin, Malina, Anna, Swan and Hans. Mr. Sampson has 320 acres of land, of which 200 acres are under cultivation. The first time Mr. Sampson was drafted he went to Rochester, and was there examined, and found to be an able bodied man, but he paid \$300 for a substitute to take his place. He was drafted a second time, and was notified the war was over before the time of examination, so he did not report.

Thronrd Richardson was born in Norway June 24, 1809. He was reared to agricultural pursuits. He was married in 1836. In 1850, accompanied by his family, emigrated to America; landed at New York May 7th of that year. They went directly to Dane county, Wisconsin, where they were early settlers. He took government land and lived there until 1854, when he sold out and started for Mower county, coming with two pair of oxen and two wagons. One of the wagons he made himself, the wheels of which he sawed from an oak log. He made a claim of timber land in section 29. After entering the land he traded 80

acres of it for prairie land in section 32. He erected a log house in section 29. In this house school was taught and religious meetings held in an early day. He raised a few potatoes the first year, while the second year he raised a crop of corn and wheat. He worked the land with oxen until 1865, when he bought a pair of horses, which are still owned on the place. He made his home here until the time of his death in 1882. His wife died in 1883.

There were twelve children born to them, three of whom are now living. Ole, the only son, now owns and occupies the homestead. He was born in Norway November 15, 1846. He was but three and one-half years of age when he came to America, and seven years of age when he came to Mower county.

He was married in 1866 to Petrina Hanson. They have six children, named Gunnelia, Annie, Helena, Theodore, Hans, Regina.

Swen Gorgeson was born in Norway, in 1813. He was reared to agricultural pursuits. He was married in 1839 to Margaret Swenson. In 1853 they left their native land for America. They first located on Lund Prairie Illinois, where he was employed in farming, remaining there until 1854, then came to Mower county, as before stated, coming with another party that owned an ox team. They made the journey over-land, and were nearly a month on the way. He made a claim of the southeast quarter of section 31, and immediately set about to build a log house. As he had no team he carried the logs on his back. He covered the cabin with straw, and grass, and later in the sea-

son covered it with sod. Six years later he built a more substantial log house, which was burned in October, 1877. He then erected the frame house which he still occupies. Mr. and Mrs. G. are the parents of five children.

Knudt Tollefson, another one of the early pioneers of Nevada, came to Mower county in 1855, from Winnebago county, Illinois, locating on the southeast of section 27, after which he bought 120 acres in section 28. He built a log house 16x18 and lived there about three years, when he sold his pioneer property and returned to Illinois, remaining there one year and a half, when he returned the second time from Illinois, and commenced to improve his farm.

Mr. Tollefson was married to Miss Betsy Martin in 1860. She was born in Norway, October 6, 1844, and came to America in 1853. Mr. Tollefson was born October 11, 1830. He attended school until 11 years old, after which he worked out by the month driving team.

The subject of this sketch left his native country May 10, 1853, and landed at Quebec after a voyage of nine weeks and two days. He went directly to Chicago, where he procured work on the Illinois Central railroad. After working twenty days he went to Rock Run settlement, Winnebago county, Illinois, where he remained two years, after which he came to Mower county.

Mr. and Mrs. Tollefson have nine children, viz.: Theodore, Martin, John, Christian, George, Thea, Petra, Andrew and Alma. Mr. Tollefson came here with teams from Illinois and made his trip in two weeks. He raised his first crop of wheat in 1857,

and sold the same crop at home for \$1 per bushel; he also sold his crop of potatoes for the same price. The log house has been replaced by a neat frame house, with frame barn and granary. Mr. Tollefson's time is devoted to raising stock and grain. He was drafted the 6th of March and reported the 14th, 1865, but as the war had come to a close he did not see any service.

Nels Olson, a native of Norway, came here in 1855, from Winnebago county, Illinois, where he had lived for two years. He settled on the southwest of section 31, and still lives there. He first built a log house, which he has replaced by one of the finest frame houses in the town. He also has fine buildings for the shelter of grain and stock. He has 120 acres under cultivation and 80 acres of timber. Mr. Olson devotes his time in raising stock and grain. He was born in Norway, in September, 1821. He attended school until he was 14 years old, when he worked on a farm until he was twenty-two, when he was married to Annie Paulson. Mr. and Mrs. Olson are the parents of seven children, Ole P., Engeborg, Peter, Laurits, Gunder, Lesa, Hillen and Martin.

Thore Larson was born in Norway, May 17th, 1833. He attended school and assisted his parents on their farm until he was twelve years old. In 1843, he left his native land and came to America. He landed at New York and came directly to Wisconsin and found employment on a farm, where he remained five years. He then moved to Illinois and was there six years. In the month of February, 1856, he came to Mower county and settled on section 30. He came here

with ox teams and camped out on the way. He built a good log house and still occupies the same, which is in good repair for a house twenty-eight years old. Mr. Larson was married to Miss Helen Hanson. She is also a native of Norway, and came to this country in 1853. Mr. and Mrs. Larson have five children, their names are: Anna, Dina, Laura, Julia and Malicia. Mrs. Larson was the widow of Francis Hirsch, who died in the winter of 1862. He left two children, Emil and Amelia. Mr. Larson has two hundred and seventeen acres of land, of which one-half is under cultivation. He raised his first crop in 1858.

P. F. Rooney, one of the pioneers of Mower county; came here in April, 1857, and filed on the southwest of section 21, in the town of Adams, and erected a sod cabin, covered it with sticks, poles and sod, and later in the summer he built a log house 10x12, and covered with wild hay and shingled with sod. He lived in this house one year and then built a more commodious log house, and got lumber for the roof, and covered it with shacks, and sod on top of the shacks for warmth and also to shed rain, and lived in that house until 1862.

Mr. Rooney was married to Miss Margaret Burnes in Chicago, June 28, 1878. Mrs. Rooney is a native of Ireland and came to Canada with her parents in 1852. She was born in 1833. Mr. Rooney is also a native of Ireland, and was born March 17, 1832. He attended school in his boyhood days, and remembers the famine of 1846-47 with accuracy, as Ireland was depopulated over 2,000,000 by starvation and emigration. He left his native land in 1852 and landed

at Quebec. He went directly to Watertown, New York, and remained until the fall of 1856, when he came west to Dubuque, and in the following April came to Mower county. He sold one-half of his claim in Adams to John Hubbard and bought forty acres of John Henry in the same section. He then built a large log house, which still remains. He was drafted in 1862 and went to Rochester, but was rejected on account of disability. He sold in 1871 and bought in section 2, in the town of Nevada. He has a frame house, and has 200 acres of land, nearly all being under cultivation. He devotes his time in raising stock and grain.

He has been very prominent in town and county matters. In 1858-59 he was town treasurer. He also held the office of justice and chairman of the board of supervisors, and in 1874 was a candidate for the legislature. Mr. and Mrs. Rooney are the parents of eight children, Alice, Francis P., Thomas, Mary, Mathew, Catherine, Bridget and Margaret.

The first settlements in the north part of the town were made in 1857, when the following named came: J. W. Gregg, David Austin and D. B. Nye. Gregg's settlement was on the northwest of section 17.

Austin was a native of Vermont. He located in section 8, where he lived until about 1879, when he sold and removed to Kansas. Nye was a native of Massachusetts. His first settlement was in section 7, where he lived some years, after which he sold and went to Wisconsin and lived there two or three years. He then returned to Nevada and made his home until his death. Another early settler was P. A. Bailey. He was from

New York City. He lived on section 18 two years, then sold and returned to the city.

John W. Gregg was born in the town of Waterbury, Washington county, Vermont, March 9, 1823. His younger days were there spent in school and on his father's farm. He was joined in marriage May 27, 1847, to Sylvia Mott. She was born in Grand Isle county, Vermont, June 10, 1824. They settled on his father's farm, which he in company with his brother managed until 1850, when he sold his interest there and moved to Franklin county, New York, where he purchased a farm. In 1855 he sold out there and started west to seek a home, settling in Mitchell county, Iowa. He took a claim near the present site of Stacyville and remained there until 1857, when he came to Mower county, as before stated. He first built a small frame shanty, the first building in that part of the town. Later he built a more commodious frame house and made this his home until the time of his death, which occurred in August, 1880. Mrs. Gregg still occupies the homestead. Mr. Gregg was a useful man in society, was prominent in town affairs. He was a member of the first board of supervisors, was chairman of the board several years, and filled various other offices of trust.

Ashley M. Gregg, the oldest son of John W. Gregg, was born in Vermont, February 13, 1849. He remained at home until he was twenty-five years of age, assisting his parents on the farm. He was married January 13, 1876, to Esther N. Tanner, a native of New York State, and was born April 21, 1856, and came to this State in 1872 with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Gregg are the

parents of three children, Clara E., Madison O. and John H.

#### FIRST THINGS.

The first white child born in the town was Andi Olson. She was born in Tove Olson's shanty, July 28, 1854. She is still living.

The second birth was Anna Sampson, August 25, 1854. She now lives in Mitchell county, Iowa.

These were undoubtedly the first births in the county.

The first death in the town was Alak Knulkaas. His death occurred in April, 1856, at 45 years of age. His family returned to Iowa.

#### MATRIMONIAL.

The first marriage in the town was Francis Hersch to Hellen Martin, February, 1856.

#### SUICIDES.

The first suicide in the town was William Rowllins, who shot himself early in the spring of 1857.

Andrew Peterson hung himself in 1882.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

School District No. 91. In 1857, the scholars living within the present limits of this district, attended a school that was taught by Osroe Peterson, in Hans Swenson's house. School was taught in other private houses from time to time, until 1865, when a log school house was built. The money to build the house was raised by subscription from the following named parties: Nels Olson, Swan Gorganson, Hans Swenson, H. K. Volstad, Gunder Halverson, Thomas Ener-son, Aslak Olson, Tron Richardson and Gunder Knudtson. Afterwards a tax was

levied and the money refunded to subscribers. The building, which was completed in the winter of 1865 and '66, was located on the northeast of section 31. The first teacher in that house was Christiana Ooby. This house was in use until 1882, when the present house was erected, a few rods west of the old site. It is a nice frame building, well furnished, and heated from a furnace. The first teacher was Fred Clow.

District No. 11. The first school in this district was held in a board shanty, owned by James Gerard, located in section 21. It is impossible to state who was the first teacher. Belinda Robinson taught the second term in a claim shanty, situated on section 22. The first school house in the district, as well as in the town, was built in 1858, located on the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of section 28, Martin Hanson having given one acre of land for the school house site. In 1872, the present frame house was erected on the old site. Nels Kalkon was the first teacher in this house.

District No. 10. The first school in this district was taught by Sarah Austin, in 1858, in a claim shanty which belonged to Gregg and Austin. In 1860, a log house was erected for school purposes. It was situated on the southeast corner of section 7. Delana Richardson was the first to teach in that house. This building has been replaced by a good frame house, in which S. Clow was the first teacher.

District No. 57. This district was organized in 1870, and a school house erected the following year on the southeast quarter of section 23. Mary Gregg was the first teacher in this house.

District No. 104. This district was organized in 1878, and a frame house erected that same year. The first teacher in this house was Miss Minda H. Ruland, from Rose Creek.

District No. 56. This district includes the northeast part of the town. It has a good frame house, which was erected in the summer of 1865. The first school was taught the following winter.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The town was organized at a meeting held in May, 1858, at the house of P. A. Bailey, or at the hotel. The town records are not complete and we cannot give a full list of the first officers.

John W. Gregg and Gunder Halverson were members of the first board of supervisors. P. A. Bailey was the first town clerk. The following named have held offices in the town: H. C. Anderson, Knud Amundson, David Austin, L. F. Stark, Francis Hersch, W. P. Stewart, J. P. Jones, Lyman St. John, Ole Sampson, B. D. Nye, O. C. Brown, H. Knudson, D. P. Baldwin, H. F. Deming, C. DeRemer, E. C. Dillingham, Peter Martin, A. C. Bisbee, Jesse Rose, S. Clow, T. Olson, Recker Austin, John Ulwelling, T. Gottomson, Ambrose Thompson, P. F. Rooney, Henry Smith, Herman Eddy, C. J. Searles, G. E. Bisbee, Ole Aslackson, Sam Enerson, C. Meyer, Nels Rasmusson, C. A. Newman, H. K. Volstad, O. N. Nelson, Wm. McFarland.

Sherwin Clow, chairman of the present board of supervisors, is a native of Nova Scotia. He was born in 1836, and attended school until he was fourteen years of age, and received a good education. In 1855 he

went to Boston, and procured a position as clerk in a dry good store, where he remained one year. After this he went West, and came as far as Erie, Pennsylvania, and there engaged on a farm, remaining there four years, when he started West, and stopped at Osage, Iowa. This was the spring of 1861. He there engaged on a farm, and the next spring came to Mower county, and located on the north one-half of southwest quarter of section 18. He took his claim as a homestead. After locating his claim he returned to Mitchell county, Iowa, where he remained during the summer of 1862, and in the fall of this year he engaged to the government as teamster, and continued in their employ until 1863, when he came back to Mower county, and settled on his claim, where he now resides. He first erected a small slab shanty 12x16, and lived in that until 1869, when he built a large frame house. On the 3d of September, 1864, he enlisted in Company K, Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. Mr. Clow was married to Miss Celinda Burnap, September 2, 1861. She was born in Paxton, Massachusetts. Mr. and Mrs. Clow are the parents of three children, viz: Fred R., Willard B., and Lillie M. Mr. Clow is engaged in raising stock and grain, and is a successful farmer. He has filled the various offices of the town as treasurer, assessor, town clerk, justice of the peace, and now fills the office of chairman of the board of supervisors. During Mr. Clow's stay at Erie, he attended the Normal School at Edenburg, Erie county, Pennsylvania, and since coming to Minnesota has taught school.

Christian Meyer, the present town clerk,

was born in Norway in 1849. He attended school until 16 years of age, when, in company with his parents, he came to America; landed at Quebec; thence to Mower county, and settled in the town of Nevada. He made his home with his parents until 1878.

Mr. Meyer was married March 26 of that year to Christiana Sampson, daughter of Ole Sampson, one of the pioneers of Mower county. She was born in Mower county.

In 1881 he settled on the southwest of section 25. He has improved the land; has set out a grove; built a good frame house and granary. They have four children, named Sophia, Louisa, Orlus and Lauritz.

Mr. Meyer has been prominent in town affairs. He was elected town clerk in 1876, and has since then held the office. He was elected justice of the peace in 1880, which he still holds.

H. K. Amundson, the present assessor, was born in Norway June, 1836. He was 17 years of age when he came to America with his parents, with whom he made his home until 1862. He enlisted in January of that year, in Company K, Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and went South. He participated in the battles of Vernon City, Island No. 10, Perryville, Kentucky, and Murfresboro, where he was severely wounded December 31, 1862, and was sent to the hospital, where he remained one month, and was then transferred to Nashville and from there to Louisville, Kentucky, then to Albany. He joined the regiment at Murfresboro in May, 1863, and went to Chattanooga. He remained with the regiment one month, when he was sent to Jefferson, Indiana, and joined the invalid corps,

and from there went to Louisville and joined the Seventy-seventh Regiment, Company G, and remained on guard duty at Louisville until March, 1864, when he was sent to Washington, then to Alexandria, remaining there until the fall of 1864, when he returned to Washington for a time, then returned to Alexandria, where he was taken sick, and was discharged on account of disability and returned home and engaged in farming as soon as his health would permit. In February, 1865, he was married to Elizabeth Gorgensen. She was a native of Norway, daughter of Swan Gorgensen, one of the pioneers of Mower county. At this time he bought the south half of the southwest quarter of section 35, and built a log house and commenced to improve the land. In 1875 he sold that place and bought in sections 27 and 22, and lived there until 1881, when he bought in sections 30 and 31. They have five children, Malina, Sophia G., Lillie A., Henrietta and Otto C. Mr. Amundson has been a member of the board of supervisors.

His father, Harmon Amundson, came to Mower county in 1859, and settled on railroad land, the north half of the southwest quarter of section 35, town of Nevada. He built a log house and immediately commenced breaking prairie. As soon as the land came into market he purchased it, and lived there until 1882, when he sold out and has since made his home with his son Knud. Mr. Amundson was born in Norway in 1820. When he was fourteen years old, he engaged on a coasting vessel, and made several trips at sea. He was married to Guro Markus, and after marriage settled down on a farm. In 1851 he sold his farm and came to Amer-

ica; landed at Quebec, thence to Illinois, where they remained one month at Belvidere, when they removed to Wisconsin, and located in the town of Christiana, Dane county, where they remained until 1859, when they came to Mower county. Mr. and Mrs. Amundson were parents of nine children. Three now living, Knud, Andrina and Betsy.

Samuel Enerson, town treasurer, is a native of Norway. Came to this country at the age of ten years with his parents. They landed at Quebec, and came directly to Rock county, Wisconsin, where they remained four years. They then came to Mower county, in the spring of 1857, and located on section 30, where he lived with his parents until he was nineteen years old, when he enlisted in Company C, 9th Minnesota, and remained with that command until the close of the war, when he came home, and was married February 16, 1867, to Mary Gorganson. She is also a native of Norway. They have four children, Theodore, Emma J., Bettie N., and Julia M. Mr. Enerson in 1867 bought the east half of the southeast quarter of section 20, and now lives on the place. He has one hundred and sixty acres of land, one half being under cultivation, and spends his time in raising grain and stock. He has since replaced the log cabin that was on the place with a good frame house. He has been quite prominent in town affairs. Has been supervisor, and is now town treasurer.

#### RELIGIOUS.

The first meetings were held at the house of Tron Richardson in 1854. Meetings were held in private houses from time to time until school houses were built. In 1867 a

church building was erected in the southwest quarter of section 33. The main building is 30x50 feet, 18 feet posts, built of brick. There is a frame vestry 20x24, 12 feet high. At the present time preparations are being made to build a steeple. It is to be a frame structure veneered with brick. The building committee are Gunder Knudson, H. C. Anderson and Ole Sampson. Rev. C. L. Clauson was pastor of this church until 1871, when he was succeeded by Rev. J. Olson. He was succeeded in 1878 by Rev. B. Gjedaker. In 1882 he was succeeded by Rev. J. Muller Eggen, the present pastor.

The ladies connected with this church have a sewing society, which has raised \$250, with which they propose to purchase a bell as soon as the steeple is ready to receive it.

#### MILL.

The first mill in Nevada. It is said "that necessity is the mother of invention." We think it was so in this case, for in the early settlement of the town the nearest mill was at Decorah, Iowa, 65 miles distant. Some of the settlers had no teams, and the distance was too great for one to pack a large grist on his back. Ole Sampson thought he would mend the matter a little and keep the wolf from the door. He dug out the top of an oak stump so that it resembled a druggist's mortar. In that he would put the corn and mash it by means of a solid block of wood attached to a pole, which was balanced on a post. By this means he kept his own as well as other families supplied with meal for nearly two years, and to use the words of Mr. Halverson, it was a God-send in those trying days of 1855 and 1856. Gunder Hal-

erson relates the following incident that happened in an early day, when corn as well as mills were scarce. I was going to mill and went around to the neighbors and gathered what corn they had. In all two sacks. I then proceeded on my way. On my arrival near the mill I found I had a stream to cross, which was so much swollen by recent rains that I would not ford with the team, so I shouldered a sack of the corn and started to cross on a log that had been felled across the stream for a foot log. While walking the log I lost my balance and went into the stream, corn and all. The sack of grain was lost; I saved myself by grasping a root that protruded from the bank, and pulling myself ashore. I felt that I would rather have lost \$100 in gold than to have lost the sack of corn at that time. I succeeded in getting the other sack across all safe; got it ground and returned home.

Torger Guttormson, one of the pioneers, was a native of Norway, born June 8, 1826. He attended school and graduated at the age of seventeen, after which he taught school until he left his country, which was in 1857, and after a voyage of six weeks landed at Quebec. He went to Dane county, Wisconsin, where he taught school five years, then in the spring of 1862 he went to Faribault county, took a claim and built a small house. In the fall the Indians commenced to ravage the land and massacre the inhabitants along the Minnesota river. Frightened at the many exaggerated reports which were afloat, he fled from his home and came to Mower county with ox teams. He moved into the house with Tove Olson, where he lived one year. He then bought the south

one-half of the northwest quarter of section 21, and built a good log house. He now owns 220 acres of land, the most of which is improved. He was married in January, 1858, to Miss Lio Torgerson, also a native of Norway. They have a family of five children, named: Ole, Anna, Sarah, Gustav and Trine. The two sons are both attending the Lutheran College at Decorah. The older one has completed a course of six years and obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts. The younger one is just entering the freshman class at the same place.

Gunder Knudson, an early settler of Mower county, came here in 1860, direct from Norway, and settled on southeast quarter of section 32. He at once commenced improving his farm, and the next year raised a crop of wheat, which he marketed at McGregor, with ox teams, and sold it for seventy cents per bushel. It took eleven days to make the trip. Mr. Knudson was married to Miss Julia Gorganson, in 1864. She was born in Norway, but came to this county quite young. She was a daughter of Swan Gorganson. In 1864, Mr. Knudson built a log shanty and lived in it seven or eight years, when he built a large frame house, joining the old one, which he has weather boarded, and is still a part of the residence. He owns 372 acres of land nearly all under cultivation. He devotes his time in raising grain and stock. Mr. and Mrs. Knudson have five children, named: Malena, Sam, Emma, Mary and John Arent. Mr. Knudson learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked, until he left his native country. He is a prosperous farmer, and has as fine a barn and granary as there is in the town.

William McFarland came to Mower county in the fall of 1863. Mr. McFarland came from Mitchell county, Iowa, where he lived since 1856, attending to his father's farm. He is a native of Illinois, where he was born November 20, 1849. Mr. McFarland came to Iowa and thence to Minnesota and settled on the north half of the southeast quarter of section 4, where he still lives on the old homestead. He has since bought 80 acres, making 160 acres, of which he has the most under cultivation. He occupies his time in raising grain and stock. He has a large herd of sheep, which he thinks are very profitable.

Mr. McFarland was married to Miss Ella Bowen March 18, 1874. She was born in Vermont in 1853. They are the parents of three children, named Mark B., Albert J. and Nellie C.

Mr. McFarland is, in fact, a prosperous farmer. He raised his first crop in 1869, which he sold for \$1 per bushel at his place, for seed.

James H. DeRemer, a native of New York State, was born December 17, 1841, and lived with his parents until he was 15 years old. When but two years old his parents moved to Racine county, Wisconsin, and remained two years. They then moved to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and remained three years. They then moved to Rock and Green counties, where they lived until the spring of 1861. In September, 1861, he enlisted in the Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, Company F. He came to Medford, Steele county, Minnesota, to enlist. His company went to St. Paul, where they remained until November 1. They then went

to Louisville, Kentucky. He re-enlisted in December, 1863, and served until the close of the war. He was taken prisoner July 13, 1862, at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, but shortly after was paroled and came home, and took part in the campaign against the Indians under Gen. Sibley; took part in the battle of Wood Lake in 1862. He is now a member of McIntyre post, G. A. R., at Austin.

He was married November 6, 1871, to Miss Theodosia Story. She is a native of Wisconsin and was born September 3, 1854. Mr. and Mrs. DeRemer have two children, Elmer and Mary.

In September, 1865, he located on the southeast quarter of section 6, town of Nevada, and has since bought 80 acres, making him 160 acres in all, and he has it all under cultivation, and he spends his time in raising stock and grain.

Larse E. Meyer was born in Norway in 1817. He attended school until he was sixteen years old, when he went to sea as cabin boy, and worked his way up, and was made captain of a vessel in 1846, and held that position until 1865, when he left his native land and came to America. He landed at Quebec, and left immediately for Mower county, and located on the east half of the southwest of section 27, in the town of Nevada. He built a good frame house, and lived there seventeen years. He then sold and bought the southeast of the southwest of section 29, where he now lives. He was married to Miss Servina Harsen. She is a native of Norway, and was born September 6, 1820. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer are the parents of four children, Hannah E., Christian, Mathias, and Laura. Mr. Meyer devotes his time in rais-

ing grain, and for a man who has followed the sea for thirty-two years, and is now sixty-seven years old, is remarkably smart, and a man of good judgment and memory.

James Kirby came to Mower county in 1866, at which time he purchased of Peter O. Maley the north one-half of section 2, town of Nevada. He spent the first winter with relatives, moving into a log house which he had completed on his land in the spring of 1867. Mr. Kirby was born in the county of Mayo, in 1829. In 1844 he emigrated to America, landing at Quebec, after a voyage of seven weeks and three days. He found employment on a canal during the summer, while in the winter he was employed in the pineries of Upper Canada. He remained in Canada about one and a half years, then moved to York State, and spent nearly two years, then went to Illinois, and engaged in farming until 1854, when he was married to Mary Welch, also a native of Ireland, born in 1837. They went to Chicago, and remained two years. After that they lived in Dubuque and St. Louis. In 1859 they located in Benton county, Iowa, where he rented a farm until 1866, coming from there to Mower county. Mr and Mrs. Kirby are the parents of eight children,

named Thomas, Mary, Eliza, Catherine, Caroline, Ellen, Francis, Adelia.

John Sullivan came to Mower county in 1866, and settled on the south one-half of the southwest quarter of section 2. He built a sod house 12x16, and covered it with slabs and wild hay, and there lived two years. He then built a good frame house, in which he now lives. He raised his first crop of wheat in 1866, which he marketed at home for \$1.50 a bushel. He is a native of Ireland, born in 1835. When he was nineteen years of age he came to America; first located in New Jersey, where he spent a few months, then he went to Genesee county, New York, where he found employment in farming until 1856, when he went to Milwaukee, where he engaged in railroading two years, then went South and remained in that section until 1861, then at the breaking out of the war he came north and located in Wisconsin, where he was joined in marriage in 1865, to Rosa Wallace, also a native of Ireland. She came to America in 1852, and made her home in Madison county, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan are the parents of six children, named: Johanna R., Margaret I., Mary A., Josephine, John T. and James P.

## CHAPTER XXX.

## PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

With the exception of the northern tier of sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, the township above named comprises the territory of congressional township 104 north, range 15 west of the 5th principal meridian. The greater part of this district is prairie land. There was, however, plenty of timber at an early day to furnish building material for the first settlers. Sections 7, 18 and 19 in the west part of the town, and sections 11 and 12 in the northeast, may be said to have been well wooded. The surface in the eastern part is undulating and affords good drainage; the soil there is a darkish loam, with a substratum of clay. The western part is gently rolling; the soil is a dark aluvial deposit, slightly sprinkled with clay. All parts are well adapted to farming purposes.

The town is drained by branches of Root river, one of which having its source in section 22, flows in a north by east direction through sections 14 and 11, leaving the county in the last named section. The other cuts across the northwestern corner of the

township, leaving it in the center of the northern boundary line of section 7.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The title of pioneer of Pleasant Valley may well be accorded to Sylvester Hills, who arrived here with his son Byron in 1854, when as yet the land was unbroken, and made a claim on section 11, going back, however, to spend the winter in Wisconsin. In the spring of 1855 he returned to Minnesota, bringing his family, and accompanied by a party of three men, named Robinson, Leavitt and Sherwin, who settled in Olmsted county. The journey was made with ox teams, wearily plodding by day, camping by night. Mr. Hills soon built a good log house, 22x32 feet, and 14 feet high, on his claim, which remained his home until the time of his death, in March, 1862. Mr. Hills was an industrious man, a worthy citizen and much respected. Pleasant Valley was named by him from a village in the eastern part of New York, in which he had formerly lived.

Sylvester Hills was born in Montgomery county, New York, in 1800. His father, Samuel Hills, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. The subject of this sketch came to Mower county in 1854, and made a claim, as before stated, in section 11. His death occurred here in 1862.

He had been twice married. His first wife was Zada Allen. She died in 1841, leaving six children, Byron, Esther, Wallace W., Marian, Lydia and Rhoda. His second wife, to whom he was married December 22, 1846, was Celia McLaughlin. She was born in York State in 1818. By this marriage there were three children, named Albert M., Jada and Nellie. Albert M. now occupies the homestead. He married Miss Polly Webber, oldest daughter of Henry Webber, who resides in section 33.

The second settlement within the present limits of the township was made in June, 1857, by John Rowley, Robert Reed and Russell Hoag. Rowley settled on section 30, living in his emigrant wagon till November, when he had completed his house.

John Rowley, one of the pioneers of Mower county, is a native of Colehester, New London county, Connecticut, and was born June 12th, 1819. He was the third son of Stephen and Mehitable (Jeffers) Rowley. He lived with his parents until seven years of age, when he was bound out by his parents to Azor Durkee until he was twenty-one years old, but as he was not pleased with Mr. Durkee; he only remained four and a half years. He then returned home and stayed over night. The next day he went to a farmer named John Wells and remained two years; he attended school winters, doing

chores for his board and worked at farming summers until he was sixteen years old, when he took charge of Samuel Kellogg's farm and superintended the same for two years. He then left and went to Lebanon and engaged in farming, which he followed until he was twenty years old, when he went to Portland, Connecticut, and worked in a stone quarry for nine years. He then engaged in the shipyards at Portland for two and a half years, he was then employed butchering at Warehouse Point, Connecticut, and remained three years, when he returned to Portland and was engaged as overseer of sixty men, engaged in getting out red freestone. He remained one year, then pulled up stakes and started west, coming to Columbia county, Wisconsin, where he bought a farm of 160 acres and followed farming for two years. He sold out and came to Mower county in June, 1857, and located on the northeast quarter of section 30, where he lived in his wagon until November 7th of that year, his first house was a log house. He lived in this house fourteen years, and kept travelers and did a good business for many years. He has taken \$97 in one day for hotel bills. Mr. Rowley has the name of being one of the most prosperous farmers in the county. In 1871, he erected a large frame house with an addition and a wood-shed, all finished in good style, and has since erected a large frame barn, thirty by fifty-six, eighteen feet high, with three wings, one twelve by fifty-six, one fourteen by forty, and the other twelve by forty. It is very conveniently arranged for feeding and caring for stock. He has also a nice granary with two wings; one wing is used as a horse stable, and the other he uses for cat-

tle and machinery. Mr. Rowley owns 480 acres of land aside from village property. He was married March 4th, 1845, to Miss Lucy Chapman. She is a native of Connecticut; was born June 20th, 1821. She was the third daughter of Alvin and Anna Chapman. Mr. and Mrs. Rowley are the parents of four children, Augusta, Delia and Dwight, twins, and Elizabeth. Mr. Rowley has been prominent in town affairs and has held the office of supervisor, assessor and treasurer. He has lately bought village property in Dexter and rented his farm and stock, for five years, and intends to move to the village soon.

During the same year, 1857, Mr. Reed, an Englishman, settled in section 7, and lived to see the county well developed. He died in 1884.

Hoag first settled on section 12, remained but a short time, and removed to an adjoining section in Olmsted county.

E. S. Hoppin came to this town with his parents in 1860, and remains a resident.

In 1864, W. L. Stiles bought land in the northeast quarter of section 24. Here he built a comfortable dwelling, into which he moved with his family in the following spring, and in which he still lives.

Luther S. Bates, one of the early settlers of Mower county, is a native of New York State. Was born February 10, 1825, in the town of Queensberry. He lived at home attending school, and assisting his parents on their farm, until twenty-one years of age, when he hired out for \$11 a month, and worked two years. He then rented his father's place, and worked it one year. During the year his father died at the age of 60 when the subject of this sketch bought the

interest of the heirs' and ran the farm until 1858, when he sold and came to Sparta, Wisconsin, where he left his family and came to Mower county, and bought the north half of the northeast quarter of section 10, town of Racine. He built a large frame house, and then returned for his family. He occupied this farm until 1873, when he sold to J. Losinger, and again purchased land in sections 14 and 15, town of Pleasant Valley, where he now resides. He has 355 acres, of which two-thirds is under cultivation. He was married January 1, 1853, to Miss Lorinda Adams, a native of Vermont. She was born in March 1824. They have one child, Adelbert Luther, born November 27, 1862, and is married, and lives in the town of Pleasant Valley. Mr. Bates, in politics, is a Republican.

Thomas F. Wallace came to Pleasant Valley in 1860, and pre-empted the north one-half of the northwest quarter of section 15. He first built a small board shanty which he occupied for one year, then built a log house, which was his habitation until 1877, when he erected a good frame house which he now occupies. He is a native of England, born in Cumberland county, November 20, 1822. He came to America when ten years of age, and lived the first two years in Canada, then went to York State and was engaged in mining there and in Canada until 1840, after which he engaged in farming twelve years, when he again engaged in mining continuing in that employment until 1860. He married Louisa Williams in 1858. She was a native of York State, born in 1838. She died April 1, 1873, leaving seven children. Mr. Wal-

lace has been prominent in town affairs, and has held various offices of trust.

W. L. Stiles, a native of Vermont, was born September 11, 1827, at Rocksbury, Washington county. He is the oldest son of Alva and Sally (Flint) Stiles. He attended school and grew to manhood on his father's farm. He was married in 1852 to Mrs. Betsy Hutchinson, and made his home in Vermont until 1857, when he came to Buffalo county, Wisconsin, where he took a pre-emption claim and followed farming until 1864, when he sold out and came to Mower county, and settled on the northeast quarter of section 24, town of Pleasant Valley, where he erected a small frame house, and as his family increased in size so did his house. In the spring of 1884 he built a large barn of which the frame is from timber set out by himself and sons in 1870, being mostly cottonwood. Mr. and Mrs. Stiles are the parents of seven children, Daniel L., Winfield, S., Charles C., Alva T., George E., Eddie O. and Chloe B. Mr. Stiles has been prominent in town affairs, and has held the office of justice of the peace for nine years, and has also been supervisor several terms. In 1883 he held the office of chairman of the town board. In politics he is a good Republican. Mr. Stiles was a member of an independent military company in the State of Vermont, and drilled for eight years. In 1863 he was a member of the home guards in the State of Wisconsin, and was elected captain of a company by a unanimous vote. Mr. Stiles is a great bee man and now has 48 swarms.

#### ORGANIZATION.

This town was organized at a meeting

held at the house of David Wells, May 11, 1858. R. C. Penny was elected chairman of the meeting, and Sylvester Hills moderator. The following officers were elected:

Supervisors, Delazon S. Ketchum, Ch'n, Byron Hills and John Rowley.

Clerk, A. H. Bogart.

Assessor, Robert Reed.

Collector, James Grogger.

Overseer of the Poor, R. C. Penny.

Constables, D. M. Wells and James Grogger.

Justices of the Peace, Andrew Howard and Sylvester Hills.

At a meeting of the board June 18, 1858, Byron Hills was appointed collector and constable in place of James Grogger, who failed to give bonds.

At the second annual meeting, April 5, 1859, at the house of David Wells, John Rowley was elected moderator. After a few preliminary remarks by the town clerk, A. H. Bogart, the following resolutions were presented and unanimously carried:

*Resolved*, That section 2 of article 11, of the statutes of Minnesota, amended so as to read "one dollar and fifty cents per day" for services of the town clerk, assessor and overseer of the poor; also any other officer of town, instead of one dollar, as it now reads; also eighteen cents for copying 100 words, instead of six cents, as it now reads.

Edward S. Hoppin, the present assessor and town clerk, is the oldest son of Richard and Lydia (Potter) Hoppin, was born in the town of Waukesha, Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, October 22, 1842. He came to Mower county with his parents in 1860, and made his home with them until 1865, when he was joined in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Rowley, youngest daughter of John and Lucy

(Chapman) Rowley. Soon after his marriage he settled on the southeast quarter of section 19, in the same town. He has been prosperous as a farmer and is now the owner of 360 acres of fine land. He is engaged in raising grain and fine stock, of which he has a fine herd, the Devon breed predominating.

Mr. Hoppin is one of the leading men in the town; has been elected to the various offices, was town clerk for eighteen years. In 1875 he was state census enumerator and in 1880 was appointed enumerator to take the census in his town. In politics he is a Republican.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoppin are the parents of three children, named Sadie E., Frank T. and Helen.

William Brown, the chairman of the present board of supervisors, is a native of Scotland, born January 1, 1843. Came to America with his mother when but two years old, his father having preceded them by two years. His father found employment in a rope factory, in the city of Brooklyn, and remained five years, and then came to Dane county, Wisconsin, and bought a farm and was engaged in agricultural pursuits there until the time of his death, which occurred in December, 1882. His widow still owns and occupies the farm. William Brown, the subject of this sketch, is the oldest son of Alexandria and Margaret Brown. He was married July 30, 1865, to Miss Maria McCoy. She is a native of New York City; was born November 22, 1847. After their marriage, they settled in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he was engaged in farming until 1868, when he came to Mower county, and settled on section 8, in the town of Pleasant Valley,

where he bought the northwest quarter. He remained on this farm two years, when he sold and bought the southwest quarter of section 24, in the same town, and built a good log house, lathed and plastered inside and clapboarded outside, making a good farm house. He now owns 240 acres, and devotes his time to raising stock and grain. He has held the office of assessor, supervisor, and is now chairman of the Board. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have six children, Alexandria W., James E., George F., Maggie M., Della M., Willie E.

#### SCHOOLS.

The first school in the town was taught by Caroline Hoag, in the summer of 1858. The sessions were held in a small cabin 12x12, and eight feet high, built for that purpose, or rather, for a double purpose; it stood on runners, and during winters was used as a pre-emption shanty, remaining on one claim long enough for the occupant to "prove up," and then being hauled by an ox team to another; in summers generally stationed on section 11 or section 12, and devoted to the use of the school. The historic building may now be seen in the southeast quarter of section 11. It is owned by A. J. Holcomb, and has been converted into a woodshed.

School district No. 47. In the winter of 1860, before the organization of this district, a school was taught within its limits in a room in the house of John Rowley. The agreement made by the people with the teacher, Alden Douglas, was that he should receive twelve dollars per month, and that he should "board around." The result appears to have been that Master Douglas was quartered with Mr. Rowley's family for the sea-

son, taking but one meal outside of his house, as Mr. Rowley himself testifies, during the term. The district was organized on the 22d of November, 1862, at a meeting held for the purpose, in John Rowley's house. The officers elected were John Rowley, Director; R. Hoppin, Clerk; A. E. Peck, Treasurer.

It was voted to raise two hundred and seventy-five dollars and build a school house 16x24 feet, 10 feet high. The house was built the following season by J. B. Graves, of Brownsdale. It stands in the northern part of section 29. The first teacher here was C. D. Douglas. In 1879 the house underwent a thorough course of repairs, receiving new underpinning, new siding, a new roof and inside finishing. It is furnished with A. H. Andrews & Co.'s patent folding seats. Callie Welch is the present teacher.

District No. 48. This district was organized in 1863. The school house was built in 1864 in the southwestern part of section 15. Mary Hoag taught the first school. Two previous school terms had been held in the house of E. Blakeslee in section 16. Alden Douglas, teacher.

Joint District No. 51. The first school in this district was taught by Mary Hoag, in 1861, in Robert Reed's milk house. The organization of the district was in 1865. A school building 18x24 feet, and 12 feet high, was erected in 1867. In the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of section 8. The first teacher was Alice Sargent; the present is Nettie Finendall.

District No. 62. A school was taught in Dan Williams' house in this district in 1865. The district was organized March 30, 1867,

at a meeting held in the house of C. D. Douglas. A. W. Douglas was chosen director; Dan Williams, clerk, and C. D. Douglas, treasurer. The school was built in the same year. It is situated in the southeast quarter of section 11, and is in good repair.

School District No. 75. The school house stands on the southeast quarter of section 32. Its cost, when completed, was four hundred dollars. The first school in it was taught by Hattie Hoppin. One term of school was kept by Miss Artemisia Way, before the house was built. The district was organized in 1869. The present officers are: H. Webber, treasurer; Julius Webber, clerk; John DeYoung, director.

District No. 94. Date of organization, September 1, 1880. The school house was built in 1874, on the northeast quarter of section 35, at a cost of six hundred dollars. It was afterward moved one mile west of the place where it now stands. It is kept in a good condition. Alba G. Paddock was the first teacher. Hattie Dickinson now has charge of the school.

#### FIRST MARRIAGE.

The first marriage in Pleasant Valley was that of Lydia Hills and Albert Barlow, in the spring of 1856. The ceremony was performed at the home of the bride's parents by Los Dutton.

#### FIRST DEATH.

The first death was that of Nettie Hills, daughter of a Mr. Hills, in the winter of 1860, at the age of two years.

#### SEVERAL RETURNS OF A NATIVE.

The following brief mention of an old in-

habitant may be of interest to some readers of the history :

One day in the summer of 1865, Alva Stiles, a boy well up in the art of seeing, while rambling about the country, probably in search of something new and interesting, had his attention drawn to what must have seemed to him a curious object and a very old thing—a huge mud turtle with incised figures on its back, denoting the year 1849, also a later date, that had been put on by Daniel Williams a short time previous, showing that this ancient denizen of the mire had twice before fallen into human hands. Alva did not torture the life out of the turtle, as another lad with less of tenderness in his disposition might have done, never so much as having heard of the society for the prevention of cruelty to dumb animals. He did not dissect the creature's anatomy, having first put him to a painless death, as an Agassiz in his place would instinctively have proceeded to do. He did not order him taken to the nearest restaurant and made into soup forthwith, as would have been the instant procedure of a city alderman. He simply took out his pocket knife and cut his own initials on the hard upper shell and then set him free to wander again at his own sweet will. In 1883 the veteran recluse put in another appearance, with the letters and figures on his graven shield still very plain. This time he was taken and held as a prisoner. His weight was found to be forty-six pounds. After two or three months he made his escape. This is no fable.

#### RELIGIOUS.

The German Lutheran church of Pleasant Valley was organized in 1879. A church

edifice 22x32 feet, and 16 feet high, was erected the same year. It is situated on the southwest quarter of section 13. Rev. Mr. Nichols, of Rochester, was the first pastor. He still has charge of the congregation. Services are held once in two weeks. Twenty families attend. The church is prospering.

#### PLEASANT VALLEY CEMETERY.

In June, 1870, five acres of land, situated in the southeast quarter of section 15, the property of L. S. Bates, was purchased by the town, at \$10 per acre, for a burial ground. The lot has been well fenced; it is neatly kept and is now known as the Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

A town hall was built in 1867, being accepted on the 16th of July of that year. It stands on the northwest quarter of section 22. In size the building is 22x40 feet, and 14 feet high. Its cost was \$465. The site was presented to the town by Thomas H. Armstrong, of High Forest.

#### SUICIDES.

There have been two cases in this town of actual or supposed suicides. The first was that of Charles Millett, who, on the 12th of September, 1882, suddenly disappeared from his usual haunts. Search was made for him, but without result, until about one o'clock P. M., of the following day, when his lifeless body was found, head downward, in a bored well, only eighteen inches in diameter. There was no way to account for its being there, but by supposing that he had thrown himself in with the deliberate intention of ending his life. Cause unknown. There was some talk of business trouble, which might have

led to a desperate state of mind, but no other verdict could be reached.

The second instance was of a nature to leave little room for doubt. It is briefly told: On the 1st of April, 1883, Vincent Webber, in a state of temporary insanity, took his own life, by cutting his throat with a razor.

Following are sketches of settlers of a more recent date.

W. J. Drake is a native of Pike county, Pennsylvania, was born July 8, 1841. He lived at home until he was ten years old, attending school. He then started for himself, and first worked on the New York & Erie railroad, as water boy; remained three years, when he came to Wisconsin, where he found employment in the lumber regions, where he remained one season, and then went to Portage City; was engaged in a hotel. He remained here one season and then was engaged in a meat market, but remained only a short time, and then went to Randolph, where he followed farming for four years. In February, 1862, he enlisted in Company A., Seventeenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. He was wounded at the battle of Atlanta, Georgia. After the war he returned to Randolph Wisconsin, and in the same fall came to Mower county and settled on Yankee Ridge, in Olmsted county; was engaged in farming there until 1872, when he came to Mower county and bought the north half of the northeast quarter of section 18, in the town of Pleasant Valley; he erected a good frame house. He now resides on this place. He was married to Miss Catherine L. King, the only daughter of Samuel and Caroline King. They

are the parents of five children, Samuel W., Charles A., Lewis F., Maggie L. and Mu-saetta A. In politics Mr. Drake is a Democrat. He has been prominent in town affairs, and has held the office of supervisor for several terms, also constable. He is now school director of school District No. 51.

A. W. Thornhill came to Mower county in 1874, and settled in the town of Pleasant Valley, on the west half of the northeast quarter of section 23, which he bought of Converse and Carson. He has erected a nice frame house and granary. His farm is all under cultivation. The subject of our sketch was born in Ohio, May 15, 1846. When four years of age he went to Wisconsin with his parents, locating at Watertown. Young Thornhill soon after went to Joliett, Illinois, and made his home with his grand parents for two years, attending school. He then went to St. Croix county, Wisconsin, where he remained eight years, and in February, 1863, he enlisted in Company H, 36th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. He was with the Army of the Potomac, and was wounded in front of Petersburg, Virginia, November 15, 1864. After his discharge, he went to Columbia county, Wisconsin, where he was engaged in farming for three years, and then came to Mower county and remained one year engaged in farming. But about harvest he sold his crop and returned to Wisconsin, where he again engaged in farming, and remained until 1872, when he removed to Cambria Village and lived until 1874, when he came to Mower county. He was married to Miss Kate Hughes, June 29th, 1866. She is a native of Wisconsin. They

have but one child, named Gracie May, born November 15, 1881.

A. J. Johnson, a native of Norway, was born December 23, 1855, and lived with his parents, attending school until 14 years old, when he came to America, landing at Quebec, and then came directly to Ossian, Iowa, where he remained two years, engaged in farming, attending school winters. He then entered Western College at Western, in Linn county, Iowa, and remained two years, spending his vacations in Mower county. In 1875 he went to Cedar Rapids and entered Coe's College, where he finished his studies, graduating in the class of '79. He then taught school for five terms, and was then engaged as bookkeeper for Mons Fladager, at Spring Grove, Houston county, Minnesota. In 1881 he came to Mower county and settled on the southwest quarter of section 20, town of Pleasant Valley. He spends his time in raising grain and stock. His wife was formerly Miss Randi Narveson, of Spring Grove, Houston county, born April 14, 1857. They have but one child, Ida Henrietta, born in 1882. In politics Mr. Johnson is Independent and is a member of the American Lutheran Church, at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Benjamin Harris settled in Red Rock township in 1870. He bought 160 acres of land in sections 5 and 8. He erected a good set of buildings, and lived there until 1883, when he sold the farm for \$5,000, and returned to York State with the intention of spending the remainder of his days there, but after remaining a short time he became restless, and started west to find a location. He visited Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, but found no place that suited him as well as Mower county. In May, 1884, he bought the farm which he now occupies in Pleasant Valley township. It is one of the best farms in Mower county. He was born October 14th, 1824. He was employed in a cotton factory, from ten until he was fourteen years of age, after which he engaged in farming until he was nineteen years of age, when he went to the lumber regions, where he was employed as saw filer by C. L. Coleman, receiving a salary of \$1,200 a year. He was married in 1860, to Catherine Cross of Pennsylvania, the second daughter of Augustus and Margaret Cross. She died in March, 1883. She was a good Christian, a member of the M. E. Church at Lansing. His second wife, to whom he was married, May 17, 1884, was Mrs. Mary Hood, of York State.

## CHAPTER XXXI.

## RACINE TOWNSHIP.

Racine is the northeast corner town of Mower county. It is bounded on the north by Olmsted county, east by Fillmore county, south by Frankford township, and west by Pleasant Valley. The soil is a rich, dark loam underlaid with a clay subsoil. The surface is rolling and the scenery diversified by occasional natural groves.

Bear Creek cuts across the southeast corner of the town. There are other streams in the town that arise from the beautiful springs, which are numerous.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT.

It seems that the first settlement within the present limits of Mower county was made in what is now Racine township, by Jacob McQuillan. An account of his settlement will be found in the general chapter of the work. There is a difference of opinion as to when he settled—some say in 1852, others in 1853. In April, 1853, Thomas Corey, a native of Massachusetts, settled on the McQuillan place, and there entertained travelers two years, after which he settled

in Fillmore county. He is now dead. His son Henry, present sheriff, lives at Austin.

Adam Zedecker, a son-in-law of McQuillan, came with him. He first made a claim in Fillmore county; but afterward traded places with McQuillan. In 1855 he sold to William Campfield, and returned to Fillmore county. Campfield was a native of Pennsylvania. He lived here about six years, then went to Kansas. He now lives in Adair county, Iowa.

Joseph Robb, Zedekiah Tomlinson and J. D. Gregory, all natives of Pennsylvania, came here April 15, 1855. Robb and Gregory both made claims, which they sold soon after to C. J. Felch, and moved to Fillmore county. Gregory now lives at Hamilton. Robb lived in Fillmore county. John R. Campfield came that year and stayed until 1873, when he removed to Kansas and settled in Elsworth county, where he now lives. Others that came in 1855 were Benjamin Campfield, John R. Campfield and C. J. Felch. Benjamin Campfield was a native

of Pennsylvania. He pre-empted land in both Fillmore and Mower counties. He lived at Hamilton a few years. He now lives near Des Moines, Iowa. John R. Campfield, also a native of Pennsylvania, first settled in Fillmore county. In 1858 he moved to section 25 of Racine township, which place is still his home. Felch was a native of York State. He settled on the southwest quarter of section 1, where he still lives.

George I. Covell was born in Erie county, Ohio, January 14, 1826. His father, Harvey Covell, was one of the pioneers of the Western Reserve. He settled within five miles of where Sandusky city now stands in 1815. He died in April, 1831, and his mother Orra (House) Covell died in 1844. When they settled in Ohio, Cleveland was not known. George Covell was married September 28, 1853, to Mrs. Phœbe Ames Buck. She was born in New York City. Mr. Covell came to Minnesota in June 1854, and was joined by his wife in the October following. He pre-empted the northwest quarter of section 8 in Racine township. This is now his home. He owns a timber lot in section 31, town of High Forest. He thinks he paid the first personal property tax ever collected in Mower county in 1855, at the (then) county seat of Frankford. Mr. Covell lived in High Forest until 1870, since which time he has made his permanent home on the farm. He is one of the prominent men in the town. He was elected to the assembly from Olmsted county in 1858, on the Republican ticket. He was also a candidate for county treasurer in Mower county in 1856. During the county seat struggle, the west side pre-

vailing in the interest of Austin, was of course defeated. Mr. Covell was appointed road overseer in 1856. His district covered three townships, eighteen miles long and six miles wide.

Joshua Burton (deceased) was born in Monroe county, Ohio, in 1816, and came to this county with his family in April 1857. He lived one year at Stewartville, and then moved to Fillmore county, where he ran a saw mill in the town of Washington for two years. In 1860 he moved to Racine township, and bought eighty acres of land in section 18, the home now of his widow, Mrs. Sarah Burton. Nine children were born to them, all of whom are living. Mr. Burton enlisted in Company C, 3d Minnesota Volunteers, and died in the hospital at Little Rock, Arkansas, September 17, 1864.

John R. Campfield, one of the pioneers of Mower county, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in the town of Hickory, Mercer county, October 22nd, 1825. His father, Benjamin Campfield, was a native of New Jersey, and was one of the pioneers of Mercer county, where he settled in 1805. The subject of our sketch was joined in marriage, October 28th, 1847, to Jane Day, a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, born April 27th, 1829. They remained in Pennsylvania until 1855, then came to the Territory of Minnesota, and located in the village of Elkhorn, now known as Hamilton. He pre-empted land in section 7, Spring Valley township, Fillmore county, where he lived two years, then sold and purchased in section 25, Racine township. He lived on this farm until 1879, when he exchanged farms with Abner Lyman, who owned a farm in

the same section. Mr. and Mrs. Campfield are the parents of nine children. Irwin, lives in Frankford; Sarah is the wife of Edward McIntyre, and lives in Racine; Teresa, the wife of John Durrell, lives in Warren county, Iowa; George N., and William A., are residents of Knox county, Nebraska; James, lives at home and is a carpenter by trade; Hellen, is the wife of John Neill, of Duell county, Dakota; John W., and Eugene are at home. Mr. Campfield is a magistrate and has served in that capacity for many years. He has been prominent in all matters pertaining to the public good.

In 1856 the following named came: William Harper, John W. Harper, Lewis Skyhawk, William Trend, Loren Dutton, Jonathan Stewart, Zara Frisbee.

John W. Harper was a native of York State. He settled on section 27, where he lived some years, then sold and moved to section 33. His home now is in Poweshiek county, Iowa.

William Harper pre-empted the northwest quarter of section 34. In October, 1858, he sold and moved to Frankford and settled on the northeast quarter of section 12 of that township. He is still to be found there.

Skyhawk settled on section 27, where he died in 1866. His widow still lives there.

The Duttons were natives of Pennsylvania and came in the spring of the year.

Loren pre-empted the northwest quarter of section 7.

The following spring William pre-empted 40 acres in section 7 and still lives there.

Stewart was a native of York State. He

pre-empted the place which he now occupies, the southwest of section 27.

Frisbee settled on section 19. During the war of the rebellion he answered his country's call. He was taken prisoner and died in Andersonville prison.

Lewis Skyhawk was one of the early settlers of Racine township. He was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, March 9, 1824. While young, his parents moved to Carroll county, Ohio. He was married February 20, 1847, to Mary Shultz. She was born in Carroll county, Ohio, September 3, 1827. In October, 1852, they moved to Porter county, Indiana, where they bought a farm and made it their home until May, 1856, when they came to Racine, Mower county. He pre-empted the southeast quarter of section 29, which is still occupied by the family. They have had seven children. Frank, now lives on the old homestead with his family and mother; Ephram, resident of Lyon county, Minnesota; Belle, the wife of William Vannatta, of this town; Cassius resides with his brother Frank; Ella, the wife of Albert Hamlin, of Brookings county, Dakota. Two children died in infancy.

Mr. Skyhawk died May 17, 1863. He is well and favorably remembered by the early settlers, as a good, worthy man and citizen.

His son, Z. Frank Skyhawk, now occupies, with his mother, the old home selected by his father. He was born in Carroll county, Ohio, September 15, 1850. He was married January 1, 1880, to Maggie J. Espenseheid, a daughter of John and Ellen Espenseheid, early settlers of this town, coming

here in 1857. John Espenseheid came from the State of New York, is a German by birth.

Frank Skyhawk and wife have two children. Jessie, born November 9, 1880, and Laura, born October 7, 1882.

In 1857, William Chreviston, L. G. Odell and John R. Vail came. The former settled in section 28. In 1865, he sold and moved to Hamilton. Odell remained a resident of the town about ten years, when he removed to his present home in Fillmore county. Vail is a native of Canada; he first settled on the place he still occupies in section 17.

William G. Dutton, born in Cataaugus county, New York, December, 3rd, 1833. His father, Solmon Dutton, was born in Rutland, Vermont. He served throughout the war of 1812 and 1814. His father, William Dutton, was one of the heroic minute men, who fought in the battle of Lexington, and soon after at Bunker Hill was at Burgoyne's surrender, and never laid down his arms until the war had ended, serving over seven years in the war for independence. He died at Rutland, Vermont. His mother's grandfather, named Fox, was also a soldier. He served in what was called the old or the French and Indian war, which covered the years from 1754 to 1763. Salmon Dutton, in 1840, moved to Warren county, Pennsylvania, where he died in 1854. His wife, Irena Dutton, lived with her son Adam, in Pennsylvania, until he enlisted in the 16th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry. He was killed at Trevolion Station, Virginia. June 12, 1864. In 1863, William T. went to Pennsylvania for his mother, took her to his home, where she died September 6th, 1869. He

came west in 1856, pre-empted lands in the spring of 1857. He still lives on the selection made at that time. He was married January 20th, 1859, to Miss Celinda Lyon, who was born in Chautauqua county, New York. She died August 26th, 1872. Mr. and Mrs. Dutton have two children, named Leo A., born May 14th, 1861, and Lillie I., June 4th, 1872.

Deacon Jonathan Stewart was born in Oneida county, New York, September 9, 1816. His father, Jonathan Stewart, Sen., was a farmer, and to this the junior was bred. March 16, 1840, he married Laura Martin, born in same county July 10, 1822. He worked his father's farm five years. Went to Wisconsin in 1845; bought 160 acres government land; lived upon it twelve years; sold the place, and came to this town June 11, 1857, and pre-empted land in section twenty-seven. Have had seven children, all living. Jonathan A., lives in Grand Meadow; John Wesley, Tacoma, Washington Territory; Lathan D., Bismark, Dakota; Thaxter M., on part of the old homestead, which he owns and occupies with his father; Eugene P., Minneapolis; Theresa R., wife of Hon. S. J. Sanborn, of this town; Jay Emmett, Minneapolis. Jonathan and John Wesley, served in 2d Minnesota Infantry, and Lathan D., in the Ninth Minnesota Volunteers. Deacon Stewart is a man universally respected; has been prominently identified in advancing the cause of religion and good morals, whenever his influence could be felt. Thaxter M. Stewart was eight years of age when his parents came to this town; lived with them until his marriage, which occurred October 8, 1869. His wife was Clarisa Johnson, daughter of

Lewis and Jane Johnson. Her parents came from Ohio, where she was born. Mr. Stewart was postmaster of the Racine office in 1884.

John R. Vail was born in the Province of Quebec October 12, 1833. In 1848 his father, Portius Vail, moved to Stephenson county, Illinois, and died there in 1849. His mother, Mrs. Harriet Vail, afterwards married and is now living in Minnesota City, this State. She is the widow of Julius Smith.

John R. Vail, in 1855, went to La Crosse, Wisconsin, and followed his trade as carpenter and joiner. He was married October 3, 1856, to Caroline E. Grosvenor, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The same season he bought of Deacon S. T. Smith, of La Crosse, 160 acres of land in section 17, town of Racine. He brought his family here May 14, 1857. He has made his residence here since, except during his service in the army. He has added 160 acres more to his land and now owns the north half of section 17. By his marriage he had four children, Frank C., S. May, Willie S. and Benjamin C. His wife died December 29, 1867, and he was again married October 4, 1868, to Mrs. Charlotte H. Wattles, the widow of Amos B. Wattles, of Chain Lake, Minnesota. By this marriage there are six children, Charles H., John R., Herbert C., George N., Lucy B. and L. Maud. He also has four step children of his second wife. Eugene D., Mary E., Clara M. and Isadore D. These four are married. His second wife died July 5, 1882, and he was again married June 5, 1883, to Mrs. Helen Lathrop, the widow of S. Lathrop, who died in Pleasant Valley. The present Mrs. Vail has two children by

her former husband, Nellie A. and Willie H.

Mr. Vail enlisted in the Second Minnesota Volunteers February, 1864, and was in the Atlanta campaign and followed old Wm. T. Sherman to the ocean and through the Carolinas; was in line at the Grand Review at Washington in June, 1865. Mr. Vail is a good, straight, energetic, live citizen and a man that can be depended upon, a man that will do all in his power to advance the public good.

Charles L. Grannis, one of the early settlers in Racine township, was born in Delaware county, New York. His parents were natives of Connecticut. The subject of this sketch went to Erie county, Ohio, in 1840, where he remained until 1858, when he came to Mower county and located in the town of Racine, on section 8. He has improved the land and erected fine buildings. Mr. Grannis was joined in marriage in 1857 to Rosanna Rogers, of New York City. They are the parents of three children, Elizabeth, Charles L., Jr., Henry J.

Mathew Russell was born in county Tyrone, Ireland, in 1823. He came to the United States in 1851, and landed at New York City. He lived in Cayuga county, New York, six years, and then came to Minnesota, reaching High Forest April 15, 1858. In August he bought 110 acres of land in Racine in section 7, and commenced improving the same in 1859, but continued to live in High Forest until 1868, when he moved onto his farm. His wife was Ann Jane Bell, born in Ireland, and came to America with her mother in July, 1864. They have six children. Mary, born in January, 1870; William, born in January, 1872; Elizabeth,

born in December, 1873; Bell, born in August, 1876; Phèbe May, born May, 1879; Mathew, Jr., born February, 1882. Mr. Russell is a good, substantial citizen, and is highly respected by all who know him. His farm contains 190 acres.

## ORGANIZATION.

This township was organized in 1858. It comprises congressional township 104 north, range 14 west, with the exception of the northern tier of sections. The northern tier of sections of town 103, range 14, are included in this township, making it a town of thirty-six sections. The first meeting for the election of officers was held at the Methodist church at Hamilton, May 11, 1858. Chas. J. Felch was elected moderator; H. S. Bailey, John Martin and C. J. Felch, judges of election; Thomas I. Lake and J. R. Dayton, clerks of election.

The officers elected for the year ensuing were:

Supervisors, C. J. Felch, Ch'n, Eli Leonard and William Campfield.

Town Clerk, O. B. Morse.

Assessor, Jonathan Stewart.

Treasurer, John Martin.

Justices of the Peace, H. S. Bailey and Loren Dutton.

Overseer of Poor, E. Kenyon.

At the annual election held at the Racine school house in 1884, the following officers were elected:

Supervisors, R. E. Stewart, Ch'n, D. C. Sanborn and E. Kenyon.

Town Clerk, W. F. Glover.

Assessor, F. H. Reed.

Treasurer, Wm. E. Harris.

Justices, J. B. Campfield and J. B. Clement.

Constable, F. L. Severson.

Roswell E. Stewart, chairman of the board of supervisors, is a native of New York State, born in the town of Weston, Oneida county, September 19, 1824. He located in the town of Racine, Mower county, in June 1860, having bought his farm of his brother, Deacon Jonathan Stewart. The land was entered from the government, by — Harper, in 1856. The subject of our sketch was joined in marriage April 17, 1849, to Sarah M. Martin, a native of the town of Weston, Oneida county. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart are the parents of three children, Hattie, the wife of J. W. Woods, of Minneapolis; Eugene R., a resident of this town, and Annie F., the wife of H. F. Reed, also a resident of Racine township. Mr. Stewart served one term as chairman of the town board during the war and several terms since. He was elected chairman of the board at the first election held after he became a resident in 1861, and served two years. He was also elected to the same position in 1882, 1883, and 1884. He is one of the prominent men in the town, and is very much interested in school matters. He is now serving his twelfth term as school treasurer, and is one of the most active members of the Methodist Church.

## RELIGIOUS.

Racine Center Methodist Episcopal Church. This church was built in 1874. It is a frame building 24x36; cost \$1647. The trustees were T. P. Lyman, D. Eastman, R. E. Stewart, E. Stagg, James F. Carson. The contract for building was awarded to R. E. Stewart. The church was dedicated June 6,

1875, Rev. R. Forbes, from Kasson, officiating. The class was organized the year previous, and formerly met for worship in the school house at Racine Centre. The following named have served as pastors here : Rev. A. Folansbee, under whose pastorate the church was built, Rev. Charles Matthews, W. H. Barkelow, T. R. Hall, E. W. Young, Noah Lathrop.

The Evangelical Association. This is the name of the German Church society, organized about 1866. It was incorporated under the above name about 1873. In 1878 a substantial church edifice was erected in the northeast corner of section 33. It is a frame building, and cost \$2,200. Rev. J. Gongoll is the present pastor.

#### FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH.

There was a Free Will Baptist church organized at Hamilton in 1858, with eight members. Jonathan Stewart was the first deacon ; Elder Reeves, from Pleasant Grove, Olmsted county, was the first pastor. Meetings were held once in two weeks, and well kept up with more or less regularity, until 1882.

#### POST OFFICE.

The first post-office was established in 1855, under the name of Elkhorn, with Jacob McQuillan as post master. Mail was received from Chatfield once in two weeks. The office was discontinued, when Hamilton post office was established.

Racine postoffice was established in 1878, at which time T. W. Stewart was appointed postmaster. Mr. Stewart still has charge of the office.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

Racine has not been behind her sister

towns in educational matters. The first school house in the town was built in 1856, Rev. Thomas J. Lake, now of Athens, Alabama, was one of the first teachers in the town. School districts have been organized from time to time, until at present there are seven full, and two joint districts. These districts are mostly furnished with comfortable houses.

#### HAMILTON VILLAGE.

This village was platted, partly in Mower and partly in Fillmore counties, and started out with good prospects. A store was started, and business began in earnest. In 1857 and '58, a seminary was started here with T. J. Lake as teacher. This was named Bronson Institute, in honor of a wealthy man in the East, whom it was thought would endow the institution, but somehow he failed to see the point, and the institute is now a thing of the past. The business of the village is now across the line in Fillmore county.

George D. Knox was born in Covington, Tioga county, Pennsylvania, June 1, 1837. His father and family moved to Geneva, Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1854, where they remained until September, 1856, when they came to Minnesota, and settled at Bristol, Fillmore county, where he lived until the summer of 1865, when he sold out and went to Missouri, intending to make a home ; but not being suited, he returned the same fall and came to this town, Racine, and bought the southwest quarter of section 25, where he resided until his death in 1867, aged 62 years. His widow survives him and lives with her children. The west half of the old homestead is owned by the subject of this sketch. His brother, Samuel B., died a

single man in November, 1874. Charles V. resides at Hamilton. Thomas J. is a lawyer and also school superintendent in Jackson county, Minnesota. Fanny A. is teaching school in Portland, Oregon. Florence H. is teaching in Minneapolis. Anna B. is the wife of Gideon Holten, of Bennington, this county. Charles V. served in the Sioux war in 1862, with the Mounted Rangers, and later in the Second Minnesota Volunteers, and followed Sherman to the sea. George D., of whom we write, enlisted in Company C., Third Minnesota Volunteers, October 11, 1861, and served faithfully during his term of service. He was mustered out in September, 1865. He was in the Vicksburg and Red River campaign. His term of service covered four years, and was full of hardships, and at his discharge found him disabled, physically, and unable to do manual labor. The Third Regiment was conspicuous in the battle of Wood Lake, one of the most important battles of the Indian war. After his discharge he taught school ten years. He was married June 4, 1873, to Mary A. Bonner, daughter of David L. Bonner, of Stewartville. Five children blessed this union, two of whom are now living, Flora L., Belle. George died in infancy. Charles Bell died in September, 1880, aged three and one-half years. May A. died in October, 1882, aged two years and ten months. Mr. Knox is a man that reads a great deal and thus keeps himself posted on the principal topics of the day. His record as a soldier stands without a blemish.

John Schroeder is a native of Prussia, born in the Province of Waldreck July 25, 1841. His father, Charles Schroeder, came to

America in 1849, bringing his wife and eight children. John, of whom we write, enlisted in Company A, Ninth Wisconsin Volunteers, under Colonel Soloman. His regiment were mostly Germans, and one of the best the war called out. Gen. Dan. E. Sickles, while inspecting the regiment at Little Rock, Arkansas, said it was the best drilled volunteer regiment he ever saw. This regiment did magnificent service. John Schroeder served for three years; was in all of its engagements and all of its marches. After the war was over John, with his brothers Charles and Henry, came to Racine township and bought land. The subject of our sketch now owns 240 acres, which is finely improved. He was married in April, 1873, to Bertha Truhn. They had two children; both died in infancy. His wife died in November, 1877. He was again married in April, 1879, to Mary Becker, a native of Prussia. They are the parents of two children, Walter and Robert.

Mr. Schroeder has served the town as treasurer, also as treasurer of the school district, and is one of the enterprising men of Racine.

Frank Pew was born in Steuben county, New York, June 6th, 1837. Ira Pew, his father, moved to Bradford county, Pennsylvania, in 1858, and Frank accompanied him. His parents are now living in Rock Dell, Olmsted county, Minnesota. Both parents came to Tompkins county; New York, in 1879, having moved from Bradford county, Pennsylvania, in 1873. The subject of this sketch came to this town from Bradford county, Pennsylvania, in 1868. He first lived on the Alfred Stewart place, and the next year

on M. E. Harris', the next on L. C. Perry's farm. In the fall of 1874, he bought the farm he now occupies in section 16, of Noah G. Carson, and has made nearly all the improvements on the farm. He was married April 4th, 1858, to Phoebe Vannetta, born in Dryden, Tompkins county, New York, August 30th, 1837. They have three children, William, Ida and Guy. Mr. Pew has a valuable reputation as a veterinary surgeon and practitioner. In his practice of medicine he employs the homoeopathic system. He has quite a large and steadily increasing practice in his profession.

William Vannatta came to Mower county in 1875, and settled in the town of Racine.

His farm contains 120 acres, located in section 20. He was born in Tompkins county, New York, September 19, 1839. When he was 18 years of age his parents removed to Tioga county in the same state. The subject of our sketch made his home with his parents until 1864, having in the meantime served in the army—171st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. In 1864 he came to Minnesota and spent fifteen months in Racine, then returned to York State, where he lived until 1875.

He was joined in marriage October 23, 1879, to Belle Skyhawk, daughter of Lewis and Mary (Shultz) Skyhawk. They have two children, John and Annie.

## CHAPTER XXXII.

### RED ROCK TOWNSHIP.

The subdivision known by this name lies in the second tier from the north and west. The township is well watered, three sufficient streams supplying an abundance of that needful element. Roberts Creek enters the town from Waltham in section 3, runs in its tortuous course through sections 4, 5 and 6, from where it leaves the township. The north branch of Dobbins Creek finds its way to the township in section 13, runs in its varied course through sections 24, 23, 22, 15, 16, 21, 28, 29, 30 and 31, from which section it enters Lansing township. The south branch of Dobbins Creek rises in section 26, runs in

a southwesterly course through sections 35, 27 and 34, and leaves the town at section 33, re-enters the township in the same section, running through section 32, and leaves the township at the southeast corner of section 31.

The natural timber, as a matter of course, follows the course of the streams, but so many groves have sprung up, under the fostering care of the settler, that the general appearance is of a well wooded country. The general inclination of the land is rolling, and is usually good arable land. Whatever land there is that is low and wet furnishes such long succulent grasses, making

fine pasturage for stock, that but little, if any, land can be called waste. The soil is generally a dark sandy loam with a clay subsoil, and contains all the elements of fertility to a very large extent.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first to settle in the township of Red Rock were three families of Norwegians, Gunder, Nereson, and a Mr. Olson, who came here in the spring of 1855. Nereson and Olson, settled in section 3, and the other on section 10. They joined teams and broke across the the three claims that season—they were all adjoining. Their cabins, about ten feet by twelve, were built of small poles, covered with prairie sod. They remained here until the spring of 1856, when Hilliard Tilton purchased Nereson's claim, together with forty acres of timber land, for which he paid \$300, one hundred for the claim and two hundred for the forty acres of timber.

Olson sold his claim to John L. Johnson, and the other Norwegian sold to Charles F. Hardy. Having thus disposed of all their land they left the township, going across the country to the Minnesota river. They were well to do for new settlers. They took with them when they left the township, seventy head of cattle. Mr. Tilton relates of them that when they were about to leave, they had two bushels of wheat left, which they had brought with them for seed. He gave them \$5.00 for the two bushels, giving them a ten dollar gold piece to change. Mr. Olson brought out a shot sack filled with ten and twenty dollar gold pieces. Failing to find the change in that sack, he brought out another, about half as large, in which he succeeded in finding the necessary change. Mr.

Tilton insists he never, either before or since, has seen as much gold together as then. Gunder Nereson and a daughter of Olson, were the only ones among the Norwegians who could talk English. They are remembered as being very hospitable.

John L. Johnson came to the town of Lansing in company with A. B. Vaughn, in 1855, when he took a claim and did some breaking, after which he returned to Rock county, Wisconsin, for his family. On his return to Lansing he found his claim had been jumped. He then came to Red Rock township, and built a shanty in Red Rock grove in section 4. The name of the grove was suggested to Mr. Johnson by a large red rock in the grove, the only one of the kind to be found for miles around.

His family moved into the shanty the last of November, and the following spring moved from the grove into a shanty on the land in section 10, purchased of a Norwegian. In this shanty in August 1856, was born the first white child in the township, Minna, a daughter of John L. Johnson. Her name being given in honor of the State where her parents had so lately found a home. The family remained here until 1876, when they removed to Washington Territory, where they now reside.

Martin B. Johnson came to Red Rock with his brother Jno. L., October 18, 1855. Martin B. Johnson was born in Chittenden county, Vermont, in 1840. He came to Mower county with his brother John L. He married Mary A. Hinds in 1861. She was born in Will county, Illinois, in 1843. Mr. Johnson enlisted in the 9th Regiment of Minnesota Volunteers, in 1862, serving un-

til the close of the war. He is a staunch Republican, and has served as deputy sheriff since 1874. He has also held local offices. He is also a member of Henry Rogers Post G. A. R. Mr. Johnson is engaged in a general collecting business, at Brownsdale, in company with E. J. Stimson, under the firm name of E. J. Stimson & Co.

Hilliard Tilton, Elijah Sanborn and Hilliard S. Brown, came from Freemont, New Hampshire, to Decorah, Iowa, where they formed the acquaintance of Charles F. Hardy. He had lately returned from Minnesota, and being somewhat familiar with the country they induced him to accompany them here. When they reached Jordan, Fillmore county, they hired him to act as guide to the belt of timber in Red Rock township, where they arrived March 7, 1856. Mr. Tilton purchased land in section 3.

Elijah Sanborn pre-empted land in section 3, in the spring of 1856. The first death in the township was that of his daughter Calista Sanborn, who died of fever early in December, 1856. His wife died of consumption in August, 1857. They were both buried on the farm near the house. In the summer of 1863 their remains were disinterred and buried in Greenwood cemetery. Mr. Sanborn returned to New Hampshire, where, when last heard from, he was still residing.

Rev. Milo Frary, a Baptist clergyman, came here from North Stonnington, Connecticut, in the fall of 1856. The house he built and occupied on Maine street, Brownsdale, has been torn down. He preached quite regularly in the school house in the village. He remained here until after the death of his wife, when he returned to Connecticut.

James H. Stewart was born in Ohio in 1825, where he grew to manhood and received his education. In 1850 he crossed the plains to California, where he engaged in mining until 1853, when he returned to Ohio. In 1854 he again went to California, remaining until the fall of 1855, when he left California. After looking around for a place to settle came to Mower county in the spring of 1856, and settled in section 11, where he has since resided. Mr. Stewart has 320 acres of land in the township, which is under a good state of cultivation. In politics Mr. Stewart is a Democrat, but for local offices supports the best man. Mr. Stewart is a single man. His parents are natives of Pennsylvania. His mother was of French extraction, his father Scotch. His parents went to Ohio in an early day, where the father died. His mother is still living.

John M. Vandegrift was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 15, 1808, where he learned and worked at the mason's trade. He was married to Miss Mary Worn, February 17, 1831. She was born July 13, 1809, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. About 1843, Mr. Vandegrift went to Wilmington, Delaware, remaining until 1850, when he immigrated to Indianapolis, Indiana. He remained there until 1856, when he came to Mower county with his family, and settled in section 34, in Red Rock township, where he lived until his death, July 19, 1875. Mrs. Vandegrift survives her husband, and still lives on the old homestead. Their children were Amanda L., William R., Elizabeth M., Thomas B., Mary W., Charles H., John M., Virginia, deceased, Clara. Mr. Vandegrift was a Democrat, and an early justice of the

peace. Mr. and Mrs. Vandegrift were members of the Episcopal church.

Freeman M. Drown was born in Caledonia county, Vermont, December 2, 1839. His parents moved to New Hampshire and from there he went to Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. He came to Mower county in October, 1856, and settled in Red Rock township, where he has since resided. He has been twice married, first to Mary A. Develin, March 12, 1859. She was a native of Philadelphia, and of Irish extraction. She was born November 25, 1839. By this marriage there were two children, James W. and Laura E. His wife died November 15, 1864. He was again married at LaPorte, Black Hawk county, Iowa, July 9, 1866, to Sarah E. Schemerhorn. She was born in Prattsville, Green county, New York, January 24, 1841.

Mr. and Mrs. Drown have four children: Clinton L., born July 2, 1868; Katie E., born February 22, 1871; Merrill E., born January 26, 1873, and Loren G., born April 21, 1881. Mrs. Drown is a member of the Congregational church, and is of Holland extraction, her parents being natives of Holland. Mr. Drown's farm contains 240 acres, located in section 27.

H. S. Brown also took a claim in section 3, adjoining that of Mr. Sanborn. On this he built a log house which he occupied until the summer of 1870, when he exchanged his land for a building in the village of Brownsdale, where he opened a hotel, in which business he continued until the spring of 1884, when he removed to Grand Meadow where he still resides.

John Setzer and family came from Shenan-

doah county, Virginia, to Red Rock township, in 1856, locating on section 3, where he resided until his death, July 17th, 1863. His wife died Feb. 22, 1875.

Nehemiah Woodward came from Vermont in the spring of 1856, locating on the southwest quarter of section 3. He died in April, 1870.

Rudolphus Heath came here in the summer of 1856, from Marquette county, Wisconsin. Established the first nursery of fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs in the township. He also built a large house on Main street, used for a time for a hotel, called the Heath house. He moved to LaPorte City, Iowa, in 1865, where he still resides.

John L. Lishen, a Free Will Baptist clergyman, came from Marquette county, Wisconsin, in 1856, preached here for a few years, when he moved to Iowa.

N. R. Hoadly came from near Binghamton, New York, in the summer of 1856, pre-empted land and remained here two or three years, when he returned to his former home. In the spring of 1871 came back with his wife, was here about two years when he returned to New York state, where he still resides.

Leland B. Lewis came from New Hampshire, in the spring of 1856. Settled on section 27, remained here until 1880, when with his family he moved to Martin county.

Abram E. Howard came from Iowa, in 1856, and located a claim in section 2. He was a surveyor, having been in the employ of the government. Remaining here two or three years he then went to Colorado, where at last accounts he was still living.

I. N. Hine came from Illinois, in 1857,

purchasing a claim in sections 5 and 8, of a settler named King. Mr. Hine built on the place and resided there until his death, September 9th, 1882. His wife survives him.

L. J. Ellsworth came here in 1856.

F. M. Drown came here in 1856.

Henry C. Rogers. See representative chapter.

H. A. Brown came here in 1856. See representative chapter.

George M. Cameron came here in 1856; is now a resident of Austin.

J. Y. Gilmore came here in 1856, took a claim. Is now a resident of New Orleans, the editor of the *Louisiana Sugar Bowl*.

Wm. O. Palmiter came here from Nova Scotia in the summer of 1856.

Henry Shook came here from Ohio in 1856.

Jas. Stewart came from Ohio in 1856.

E. J. Stimson came in the summer of 1856.

J. D. Rugg came here from New York State in 1856.

J. J. B. Wright came here in 1856.

George Colby came from near Concord, New Hampshire, in the spring of 1856, and located on section 5. He did not remain long, but returned to Wisconsin.

J. D. Lean came, in company with L. B. Lewis, from New Hampshire, and settled on section 28. He returned to his former home in 1859, where he still resides.

Harvey E. Anderson came from Illinois in 1857, in company with Mr. Pitty and engaged in merchandise. Later he was largely interested in farming, being one of the largest land owners in the township. He dealt quite extensively in grain and was interested in milling, both wheat and flax. He moved

to Nebraska in 1880, and is now on a cattle ranch near Atkinson.

Alden Petty came from Illinois in the summer of 1857. Married Mrs. Mary (Woodward) Percival, daughter of Nehemiah Woodward during the winter of 1858. He remained here until the spring of 1866; is now living at Dell Rapids, D. T.

Orrin J. Hill was born in Carrol county, New Hampshire, March 8, 1835, where he grew to manhood and received a limited education, after which he served an apprenticeship at shoemaking. In the fall of 1854 he went to Wisconsin, remaining in the vicinity of Oshkosh about two years. In 1857 he came to Mower county in company with his mother, and brother Amos, who is now a resident of Austin. Orrin J. entered the north one-half of the north one-half of section 33. They lived in their wagons on the prairie four weeks before they had a house in which to live. When Mr. Hills came to Mower county his mother was 57 years of age. She died August 19, 1863. After doing some breaking and making other improvements, Mr. Hills returned to Wisconsin, where he was married in 1862 to Frances Ransom. She was born in New York State, 1842. The next spring after his marriage, Mr. Hills returned with his wife to Mower county and resumed farming. He removed to his present home in section 33, in 1875. His farm contains 560 acres, and is largely engaged in stockraising. Mr. and Mrs. Hills are the parents of seven children, Walter J., Arthur, Eliza, Edmond, Laura, James, Sally.

Zalmon Ames was born in Genesee county, New York, August 9, 1820. He

grew to manhood in New York State, where he was married October 12, 1844, to Anna Avery; she was a native of Chatauqua county, in 1830. She died in 1850. By this marriage they had three children, viz: Francis, P. C., and A. O. He was again married in 1851, to Mary A. Avery. He emigrated to Illinois in 1854, and in June 1857, came to Mower county, and settled in section 7, in Red Rock township, where he still lives. His wife died October 30, 1875. They had six children, Henry A., Mary E., Fred D., Warren, Hattie L. C. C. Ames, a son of Zames, was born in Chautauqua county, New York, June 17, 1847. Came with his parents to Mower county, where he grew to manhood, and received a common school education. Has always been engaged in farming. Mr. Ames is a Greenbacker, and has held local offices.

Ebenezer E. Tanner was a native of Tompkins county, New York, born September 25, 1824. He went to Pennsylvania, where he married Lydia A. Colby. She was born in 1827. In the fall of 1859, they came to Mower county, and settled in Red Rock township, where they lived until their deaths: Mrs. Tanner in 1860, Mr. Tanner in 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Tanner had a family of five children. They were members of the Seventh Day Advent Church. Mr. Tanner was prominent in township affairs.

De Los Tanner, second son of Hiram E. Tanner, was born in Pennsylvania, December 26, 1847. He came with his parents to Mower county, of which he has always been a resident. Mr. Tanner received his education in the district schools of his township, and has always been engaged in farming.

Mr. Tanner was married October 17, 1874, to Emma C. Langworthy, a native of Winnebago county, Wisconsin. She was born October 5, 1850. Their children are Forest O., Alice V., Eliza M.

Mr. Tanner is a Republican and the present assessor of his township, which office he has held three terms. He has also held the office of town clerk. Mr. Tanner is a member of Lafayette Lodge No. 116, A. F. and A. M., at Brownsdale. Mr. Tanner owns and lives on the old farm pre-empted by his father, which contains 360 acres.

Samuel Dodge was born June 2, 1815, in Delaware county, New York. He is a son of William and Abigail (Burgen) Dodge. The father was a native of Connecticut. His parents afterwards settled in Delaware county, where Samuel was born. He was reared on the farm, receiving a limited common school education. In 1835 his father sold his farm and removed to Genesee county, where the subject of our sketch learned the carpenter's trade. He was married to Rebecca L. Cummings October 27, 1843. She was born May 27, 1823. Mr. Dodge came to Mower county and worked at his trade of carpenter and joiner. He was again married August 21, 1865, to Mrs. Amanda L. (Vandegrift) Griffith. She was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 1, 1832. She is a daughter of John F. Vandegrift, who settled in the township in 1856. Mrs. Dodge pre-empted the land on which she now resides in June, 1857. Her first husband died in Illinois. By the present marriage they have had three children, Grace I., Mary A, Aurelia T. Mr. Dodge is a Democrat, and is serving his seventh term as justice of the peace.

## THE FIRST MARRIAGE.

The first marriage in the township was that of Hilliard Tilton and Miss Mary E. Setzer, at the residence of the bride's parents in Brownsdale, Oct. 1st, 1857, by Charles F. Hardy, a justice of the peace.

Hilliard Tilton was born in the town of Sundown, Rockingham county, New Hampshire, in 1820, and grew to manhood in Freeport, the same county. In 1856 came to Mower county, settling in Red Rock township, where he still resides. He was married October 1st, 1857, to Miss Mary E. Setzer. She was born in Shenandoah county, Virginia, February 16, 1833. Her parents moved to Ohio when she was two years old, afterwards to Indiana, and in July, 1856, came to Mower county, where they lived until their death, the father in 1863, the mother in 1875. Mr. and Mrs. Tilton have had five children. Mr. and Mrs. Tilton are members of the Christian Church.

## THE FIRST BIRTH

was that of Minna, daughter of J. L. Johnson.

## THE FIRST DEATH

was that of Calista, daughter of Elijah Sanborn.

## BROWNSDALE.

The village of Brownsdale was laid out in the summer of 1856, by A. D. and H. A. Brown and John L. Johnson, who had M. K. Armstrong survey and plat about 160 acres. Brown Bros. soon purchased the interest of J. L. Johnson, and became sole proprietors. The village grew rapidly for a year or two, and then remained nearly sta-

tionary until the advent of the S. M. R. R. in 1871.

Andrew D. Brown was born in North Stonnington, Connecticut. Is the second son of Mathew and Lucy (Denison) Brown. In early life a love of adventure induced him to become a sailor. He made several voyages until he became first officer of a vessel sailing to the East Indies. On the discovery of gold in California, he was among the first to go there, and was engaged in mining for several years. Came to Minnesota in 1856, and has been largely identified with the interests of Mower county. Has been largely interested in farming, also in milling. Remained here until the spring of 1883, when with his family, he moved to Nebraska, where he is engaged in stock raising.

## ORGANIZATION.

The first election was held at the house of John Anson, on the corner of Grove and Mill Sts., in Brownsdale, in the fall of 1856. At this election there were sixteen votes polled. This was an election precinct, comprising the towns of Red Rock, Waltham, Sargeant, and Dexter. The towns were set off one by one until 1858, when the town of Red Rock was by itself. The proceedings of the first election and the officers elected not being in the clerk's office no account can be given.

## INCORPORATED.

The village of Brownsdale was incorporated by an act of the legislature, in February, 1876. By this act O. A. Sleeper, J. C. Sanborn, and A. D. Brown, were made judges. The first election was held at the store of A. L. Sleeper & Sons, on the 14th day of March

1876. At this meeting C. S. Barbour was chosen Moderator. W. S. Woodard Clerk. The officers elected at this meeting were as follows:

Councilmen, H. H. Shook, President; H. J. Sprague, B. F. Bacon.  
Recorder—O. A. Sleeper.  
Treasurer—E. J. Stimson.  
Justice of the Peace—A. D. Brown.  
Assesser—Stephen Ives.  
Marshal—J. N. Priest.

#### PRESENT OFFICERS.

Councilmen—O. A. Sleeper, President; H. H. Shook, Ole Hansen.  
Recorder—Albert Swift.  
Treasurer—Christian Erickson.  
Justice of the Peace—Hiram Hunt.  
Assessor—W. S. Woodard.  
Marshal—A. J. Kerger.

#### THE FIRST STORE.

The first store in Brownsdale was opened by Jno. L. Johnson in the summer of 1856, in a small frame building at the corner of Main and Mill streets. He kept a stock of groceries and such merchandise as is usually found at a country store. In the spring of 1857 he took H. E. Anderson as a partner, enlarging his stock and increasing his business. The partnership continued for a year or two, when the building was purchased by Barney Develin, and by him converted into a residence, which he occupied only for a short time, when it was removed to the town of Waltham for a farm house.

#### THE FIRST BOOT AND SHOE STORE.

The first boot and shoe store was built for Thomas Alred, in 1857. He occupied it as

a place of business for several years, when he removed with his family to Winona, and the building was moved out into the country. It is now standing on the farm of John Miller. Mr. Alred did not remain long in Winona. On his return erected another store on Main street. He was in business here until the spring of 1871, when he moved to Nashua, Iowa. The last store he built in Brownsdale, is now occupied by L. Edwards as a residence.

Wm. F. Smith came from Dunkirk, New York, to Brownsdale, sometime in 1856, when he engaged in mercantile business. He served through the war in the 9th Minnesota Infantry. After his return engaged extensively in farming. In 1871, he married Miss Nellie, daughter of Ralph Anderson. In 1879 removed with his family to Minneota, Minnesota.

L. J. Ellsworth's store. In the summer of 1857, L. J. Ellsworth had a frame building erected on the corner of Market and Main Streets, where he kept a stock of groceries and provisions. He continued in business but a short time, disposing of his stock to John Dunton, who was in business but a few months, when he sold out to W. F. Smith, who kept a general grocery store. He continued in business until 1861, when he was succeeded by C. H. Coates, who kept a general stock of merchandise, dry goods, groceries, etc., etc. In the spring of 1866, he entered into partnership with H. E. Anderson. This continued until the spring of 1868, when they sold out to L. J. Ellsworth, who occupied the store until 1871, when it was purchased by V. Richards, of Austin, Mr. Ellsworth moving his goods into a larger

and more commodious store he had erected in the same block. Mr. Richards used the store as a harness shop, also as a residence for his family. It was destroyed by fire on New Year's Eve., 1873, the family being absent at the time.

Latham J. Ellsworth was born in Cayuga county, New York, June 26, 1827. Mr. Ellsworth, after attending the common schools in his native county, attended Aurora Academy two terms. In the fall of 1848, he went to Fon du Lac, Wisconsin, where he engaged in clerking in a drug store. He was also engaged in loaning money. He remained here until 1853, when he went to Kingston, Marquette county, and engaged in the hotel business, remaining until the spring of 1857, when he came to Mower county and engaged in the mercantile business for a short time at Brownsdale, after which he went to Omro, Wisconsin, and from there to Winona, Minnesota, where he engaged in clerking for a wholesale house, where he remained until the spring of 1861; when he went to Hamilton, Fillmore county, and engaged in the mercantile business with S. C. White, of Winona, remaining in that business until 1865. During his stay in Hamilton he accumulated the most of his property. In 1865 he dissolved partnership with Mr. White, and managed the business himself for a short time. After looking for a business location in different places he returned to Brownsdale, in 1867, when he again engaged in mercantile trade. Mr. Ellsworth ran the business with good success until 1882, when he rented his store building, since which time he has been engaged in farming and looking after his business interests. Mr. Ellsworth has been twice

married, first to Mary H. Coates, in 1856. She died in Brownsdale, Mower county, June 3, 1858. Ellsworth was again married in 1865, to Flora E. Coates, born in Port Allegheny, McKean county, Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth have one child, Arthur D. They are members of the Methodist Church. Mr. Ellsworth is a Liberal Republican, and has held local offices.

#### BROWNSDALE POSTOFFICE.

Brownsdale postoffice was established in the fall of 1856, with John L. Johnson as postmaster. The office was kept at his store. Mails were received once a week, brought from Austin on horseback. Mr. Johnson remained in charge of the office until 1858, when H. H. Shook received the appointment of postmaster. He was relieved in turn by A. D. Brown, R. C. Heath, E. J. Stimson, H. Tilton, A. Stevens, Stephen Ives, A. J. Hunt and W. S. Woodard, the present incumbent.

The office was created a money order office July 1, 1874. The first order was issued July 6, 1874, to Mons Erickson, of Brownsdale, in favor of Ole Wilson of Kasson, Dodge county, Minnesota, amount \$5.00.

The first order paid was issued at Dublin, Virginia, to George W. Weiser, in favor of James M. Weiser, amount \$50, was paid July 18, 1874.

Mails are received by rail three times per day. The office is in a prosperous condition.

#### STEAM SAW MILL.

One of the first buildings erected in Brownsdale was a steam saw mill, built by A. D. and H. A. Brown, the necessary machinery being shipped to Homer, a small place just below Winona, on the Mississippi river. From there it was brought by oxen,

under as discouraging circumstances as one could well imagine—no roads, no bridges, the ground soft and streams swollen from frequent and heavy rains. The mill was soon in running order and furnished the people for miles around with lumber to commence building their homes.

It was run for several years, until timber began to grow scarce, when it was sold and taken to some place in the western part of the State.

Nearly all the first buildings erected in the town were built of hard wood lumber sawed in that mill.

The first cat that ever was in the village was bought in Winona and rode across the prairie in the boiler of that mill.

#### FIRST HOTEL.

The first hotel in Brownsdale was erected in the fall of 1856, by H. A. Brown. The lumber being sawed at the mill of Brown Bros. It was mostly built of hard wood, oak, ash and walnut. The building was inclosed, and Jno. L. Johnson opened it as a hotel about December the same year. He occupied it until the following spring, when he was succeeded by E. J. Stimson, who was followed by C. H. Coates, and later by Andrew D. Brown, and others. The present proprietor is Mr. W. D. Miner.

A. D. Brown kept the hotel at the time of the Indian outbreak, in 1862. On the 20th of August, the little village was filled to overflowing with settlers from the towns west, who commenced arriving about four o'clock in the morning, and continued to pour into the little village until between two and three hundred had congregated here. They had left their homes with scarce a moment's warning. Many of them were half wild with fear,

for every hour was bringing fresh stories of ruined homes and butchered inmates. Every gun and all the amunition to be found, was collected, and they determined to make the best fight possible. The hotel being large, was made headquarters for the many frightened settlers, who filled it to overflowing. Though unprepared for such an infly of guests at such an hour, Mr. Brown gave them a hearty welcome. Scouts were sent out, and on learning the Indians were not in pursuit, as they had supposed, many returned home, some even leaving that evening.

Thomas Alred came to Brownsdale in 1856, and entered into the manufacture and sale of boots and shoes. He also that year took a claim in the township. He was married to Miss Sarah Ticknor in December, 1871. He was justice of the peace for several years. Remained in Brownsdale until the spring of 1871, when he moved with his family to Nashua, Iowa, where he still resides.

Benjamin F. Bacon commenced trade here in 1865, keeping a stock of dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, etc. His store was located on the northeast corner of Main and Mill streets. He continued in business until December 24, 1872, when the building was destroyed by fire, a small portion only of the contents being saved. Mr. Bacon had a fine brick building erected on the site of the other, in which he carried on the mercantile business until 1880, since which time he has given his attention to farming. His store was rented for a short time only to I. C. Thatcher, being used for the sale of dry goods, groceries, etc. In the spring of 1870 Messrs. Bacon and L. J. Ellsworth were the only merchants in the village. The S. M.

R. R. was built through the town that summer, and Herman Gunz, of Austin, rented the new and until then unoccupied store of L. J. Ellsworth, stocking it with a large and varied assortment of general merchandise. Mr. Gunz remained in business only a few months, moving his goods to Wells, to meet the demands of the S. M. R. R., as it made its way westward.

The first hardware store was built on Mill street for H. J. Sprague, who came here from Bellevue, Iowa, in the spring of 1871. He kept a large stock of hardware, and had an extensive business until failing health obliged him to relinquish it. He sold the store and contents to Ira Jones, of Austin, in the summer of 1872. In 1873, about a year later, the stock was sold to Rufus Kimball, and the succeeding summer was sold to Stimson & Woodward. They were in business but a few months when in 1875 they sold the stock at about \$1,800, to T. K. Dahle, of Rochester, who also purchased the building they occupied of Ira Jones. Mr. Dahle is still here engaged in the same business, in the same building; carries a stock valued at \$5,500, and does an annual business of about \$10,000; is one of our most successful business men. For biography of Mr. Dahle see Representative Chapter.

In the spring of 1871, John Aten, of Bellevue, Iowa, built a store on the lot adjoining H. J. Sprague. He occupied one half as a grocery store, renting one half to A. L. Sleeper & Sons for the sale of drugs. Mr. Aten did a large and successful business. In the summer of 1876 he associated with himself John Muncey, of Bellevue, under the name of Aten & Muncey. The new

firm extended their business building a warehouse for the purchase of grain, hides &c., and opened a lumber yard near the R. R. depot. In the summer of 1876 their warehouse was destroyed by fire. This they at once replaced by building a fine elevator. They continued their business till 1878, when Mr. Aten sold his store to A. H. Marsh, and in 1880 sold his elevator to Cargill Bros. of LaCrosse. In the lumber business they have no successor. Mr. Aten and family removed to Dakota in 1882.

The first furniture store was built by Jas. N. Priest, of Preston, Minn., who occupied it until the winter of 1872, when becoming dissatisfied he disposed of his stock and rented his store to the firm of Warren Bros., who filled it with a fine assortment of groceries. They continued business but a few months, selling out in the spring of 1873, to A. L. Sleeper & Sons, who removed their drugs from the store of John Aten, thus adding groceries to their former business.

A. L. Sleeper came from Vermont to Brownsdale in 1862. His sons became associated with him in business in 1871. They now occupy two large brick stores, where they have a large and varied assortment of dry goods, groceries, drugs and general merchandise. Their annual business amounts to at least \$30,000. They are deserving, energetic, reliable men, and may be considered among the most successful merchants of Mower county. They are the manufacturers of Sleeper's Lightning Fly Poison, which has an extensive sale in many States of the union.

Ozro A. Sleeper was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, August 31, 1860. He is the

son of A. L. and Elbertine (Church) Sleeper, natives of Massachusetts. Mr. Sleeper, Sr., went to Vermont, where he was engaged for a number of years in the mercantile business. From there, in 1862, he came to Mower county and engaged in farming near Brownsdale. In 1872 he engaged in the drug business at Brownsdale. In 1873 he took his son Ozro A. into partnership, afterwards William B. and Carlos O. The business is now run under the firm name of A. L. Sleeper & Sons. The business has increased under their management until their store-rooms will compare favorably with stores in much larger cities. The family of A. L. Sleeper consists of seven children, Charles A., Ozro A., Charles O., William B., Martha A., wife of W. W. Webb. Carlos O. was born in Vermont June 8, 1852. He came to Mower county with his parents. He was married September 23, to Hattie Warren. She was born in Dodge county, Wisconsin, August 1, 1856. They have two children, Ruthie J.; Mabel H. Ozro A. is an independent in politics and has held local offices; is at the present time president of the village board; is a member of Lafayette Lodge No. 116, A. F. & A. M.

#### BROWNSDALE BAGGING CO.

In the spring of 1872 Samuel Dundee, of Belfast, Ireland; Herman Gunz, of Austin, and Harvey E. Austin, of Brownsdale, entered into a partnership, known as the Brownsdale Bagging Company, their object being the manufacture of coarse cloth from flax, suitable for encasing cotton bales. For this purpose a large stone building was erected, called the "Brownsdale Bagging Company," the stone being brought from Fountain for

its construction. The machinery, which was quite intricate was brought from Belfast, where Mr. Dundee had been engaged in similar business. For a time the enterprise promised success. Many of the farmers in the vicinity pledged themselves to raise flax, an amount being contracted to the company sufficient to supply all demands. But a poor crop of flax, together with the removal of the duty on jute, so disheartened the company that they abandoned operations after sustaining no small pecuniary loss.

In the spring of 1875 the mill was sold to "Marston Bros. & Lawrence," the firm consisting of Frank Lawrence, of Vermont, and his step sons, George Marston, of Cincinnati, and Edwin Marston, of Austin, by whom new machinery was purchased, converting it into a flouring mill. This did not prove a financial success and the mill was sold by them a year later to H. E. Anderson and A. I. Brown, who manufactured flour for a year or two. It was used as a flouring mill by various persons with varied success until 1882, when the machinery was sold to S. Alderson, of Austin, and removed to Hampton, Iowa.

John C. Sanborn opened the first butcher shop in Brownsdale in 1871; was in that business but a short time; sold out to Billings & Robinson. He was for several years engaged in the sale of agricultural machinery. Is now in a commission house in Minneapolis, in partnership with his son, George E. Sanborn.

#### FROZEN TO DEATH.

Mr. Hunter, from Indiana, came here in September, 1856. He was partially insane. He started from here one very cold after-

noon in December to go to Winona, by way of High Forest. The residents used every effort to dissuade him, but without success. He left Brownsdale about 3 p. m. It was found he had not reached High Forest, and as days went by bringing no tidings of him, a party, among whom was Mr. Howard, started out in search of him. He was found frozen to death about nine miles from Brownsdale, having strayed from the direct route, evidently hoping the timber he was striving to reach would afford him some protection. His remains were brought to the village, and buried a little east of the place. There is nothing to mark his grave.

John Taylor, a Scotchman, came to Red Rock in 1856, and located in section 23, about two miles and a half from Brownsdale. On Sunday afternoon in February, 1857, about 4 p. m., he left Brownsdale for his home. It was intensely cold, a high wind blowing, and as the darkness of evening settled around him, he could not find his way home, passing across his land within 80 rods of his own door. Keeping the wind at his back, he made his way across the prairie, growing weaker, his steps gradually growing shorter, showed until he reached eight miles beyond his home, where he was found frozen to death. All attempts to find him were unavailing for nearly two weeks, when a large party comprising some fifteen, started from Brownsdale. They came very near freezing themselves on their return, as in the darkness they lost their way, and but for the thoughtfulness of one of the residents, who fastened a lantern into the top of the tallest tree near the village to guide them home, would likely not have reached the village alive.

#### LAFAYETTE LODGE NO. 116, A. F. AND A. M.

Lafayette Lodge No. 116, A. F. & A. M., was organized under dispensation, March 5, 1874. The first officers were: Stephen Ives, W. M.; O. R. York, S. W.; E. W. Connor, J. W.; N. A. Sumner, Sec.; John Steen, Treas.; H. Housman, S. D.; A. McGowan, J. D.; L. L. Lamb, Tyler; John Hoy, S. S.; J. B. Graves, J. S.

The lodge worked under dispensation until January 13, 1876, when a charter was issued by the Grand Lodge, under which the lodge has since been working. The lodge has lost but one member by death since its organization; that of C. F. Barbour, who died in Rhode Island in 1879.

The present officers are: O. A. Sleeper, W. M.; C. O. Bigelow, S. W.; C. Erickson, J. W.; Ole Hanson, Treas.; J. N. Thatcher, Sec.; D. L. Tanner, S. D.; G. G. Curtiss, J. D.; B. F. Bacon, Tyler; L. W. Thompson, S. S.; A. Launsbury, J. S.

The lodge is provided with a well furnished hall, over G. E. Rolph's store. Meetings are held on the evenings of the first and third Saturdays of each month. The present membership is 41.

HENRY ROGERS' POST, G. A. R., was organized February 4, 1882. Commander R. A. Burleson, of Post No. 3, of Spring Valley, Fillmore county, was detailed to muster the new Post. The first officers were, Albert Surfit, C.; Alfred Launsbury, S. V. C.; Burr Maxwell, I. V. C.; Henry Harris, S.; C. S. Beaulieu, Chaplain; Charles Gage, O. D.; C. A. Warren, Adjt; M. B. Johnson, Q. M.; F. A. Carll, O. G.; N. N. Palmeter, Serg't Major; George R. Church, Q. M. Sergeant. These, with the following,

constitute the charter members, B. M. Carll, A. J. Hunt, W. W. Lamb, John Hedigard, Samuel Church, Alonzo Rose. The Post was named "Henry Rogers" in honor of the gallant services rendered by Colonel Henry C. Rogers, during the rebellion, and the noble traits of character exhibited by him in after life, both as a private citizen and a public officer.

In the summer of 1883, a movement was inaugurated to procure a stone to mark the grave of Colonel Rogers. His friends were appealed to, and in a very short time the Post, assisted by A. C. Hawley, Adjutant General of the State, succeeded in raising a fund sufficient to procure a fine marble monument, the unveiling of which took place June 17, 1884, with appropriate and imposing ceremonies. Speeches were made eulogistic of him by Ex-Governor Ramsey, and Hon. Mark H. Dunnell. Below is given an account of the affair as reported to the press, viz :

"Owing to the heavy rain in the morning many did not attend the celebration at the unveiling of the Henry C. Rogers' monument at Brownsdale. The procession formed at the depot at 2 o'clock, and marched in the following order: Fillmore Martial Band, Spring Valley Band, Second Regimental Band, Austin members of G. A. R., Posts from Kasson, LeRoy, Spring Valley, and Fillmore, Spring Valley firemen, Company G, Austin, and Brownsdale Post G. A. R. The procession marched to the school house. The monument then was presented by Ex-Governor Ramsey. Dr. Beaulieu presented thanks for the Post. Mark H. Dunnell then read a thirty-seven minute oration, suitable

to the occasion. The main streets of the village were jammed. A special train was run from Austin."

Below is also given a brief history of the monument, names of contributors, etc., as given by a county paper :

"Henry C. Rogers came to Brownsdale, Minnesota, in 1856, from Massachusetts. At the breaking out of the rebellion he enlisted as a private in the Ninth Minnesota Infantry. Soon afterward he was transferred to the Eighth Regiment. Since the war he has been Secretary of State and State Pension Agent, holding the latter office at the time of his death in May, 1871. He was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Brownsdale. The Grand Army of the Republic Post, formed at Brownsdale in 1882, took his name. The monument fund was started in the spring of 1883, through the energetic exertions of Albert Swift, Post Commander. He was materially aided in his efforts by A. C. Hawley, of St. Paul. Henry C. Rogers Post contributed \$25. The remainder came from prominent men in St. Paul, among whom are the Hon. Alex. Ramsey, Gen. J. B. Sanborn, Gen. J. T. Averill, Gen. J. H. Baker, the Hon. William R. Marshall, Col. William Crooks, Gen. A. C. Hawley, the Hon. W. W. Braden, the Hon. Charles Kittleson, the Hon. S. P. Jennison, the Hon. David Day, the Hon. Albert Scheffer, the Hon. M. D. Flower, the Hon. A. R. McGill, and the Hon. Samuel Nichols.

The monument is located about a mile and a half south of Brownsdale in Greenwood Cemetery. It is a cottage monument in design, made of blue Vermont marble. It is very handsome and reflects credit and honor

upon the public spirit of Brownsdale and the members of Henry C. Rogers Post, Grand Army of the Republic."

A more complete sketch of Col. Rogers will be found in the representative chapter.

Memorial day is properly observed by the Post each year, and the gatherings on these occasions are large and attentive. The dead heroes who sleep in our quiet Greenwood Cemetery are each kindly and feelingly remembered and honored.

The present officers are: Captain Charles Gage, Commander; B. L. Stimson, S. C. C.; A. Rose, I. V. C.; H. Harris, Surgeon; C. S. Beaulieu, Chaplain; N. N. Palmeter, O. D.; M. B. Johnson, Q. M.; A. Swift, Adjutant. Present membership 34.

#### PRESENT BUSINESS—HARDWARE.

Thomas K. Dahle commenced business in August, 1875, in his present building, with a stock of about \$1,800; present stock about \$4,500; annual business, \$10,000. Mr. Dahle was born in Norway, February 4, 1850. When eighteen years old he came to Decorah, Iowa, and engaged in farming summers and attending school in winter. He remained here three years, when he went to Rochester, Minnesota, and engaged as clerk in the hardware business, remaining until 1875, when he came to Brownsdale and engaged in his present business. Mr. Dahle was married to Anna Christina Gunderson November 20, 1877. She was born in Norway, June 13, 1855. They have two children, George Arthur, Knute Norman. They are members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Dahle is a Republican and has been a member of the board of county commissioners, also a member of the village council.

Mr. Dahle is a member of the Masonic Lodge of Brownsdale and of the Austin Commandery, also of the Chapter.

#### GENERAL STORES.

George E. Rolph, general merchant successor to I. C. Thatcher, whose business he purchased about 1883. He does a good business. Mr. Rolph was born in Walworth county, Wisconsin, January 2, 1857. His parents, Edwin and Caroline (Scofield) Rolph were natives of New York State. They moved to Mower county, Minn., in 1865, where the father died. The mother afterwards married Mr. George Wood and resides at Lansing. George E., the subject of our sketch, received a common school education. He remained at home until thirteen years of age, when he worked at farming two years, after which he engaged in surveying with a railroad party one year, after which he was in the employ of a railroad company, keeping books and time of the force of a construction train, remaining at this work one year. At the age of eighteen, Mr. Rolph was engaged in farming, and in connection with his farm-work, herded cattle two years, after which he went to Brownsdale, where he has since been proprietor of a billiard hall, which was destroyed by fire in August, 1884. The past eighteen months Mr. Rolph has been engaged in the mercantile business, having purchased the interest of I. C. Thatcher. He is doing a good business.

William H. Lawrence commenced business in the spring of 1875, in partnership with Benjamin F. Bacon, under the firm name of Bacon & Lawrence. This firm remained in business until the fall of 1876, when Mr. Lawrence sold his interest to Mr.

Bacon, and in 1877 engaged in his present business.

Sleeper & Sons, dry goods, groceries and drugs. (See history elsewhere.)

#### DRUGS AND GROCERIES.

A. H. Marsh first commenced business in company with R. A. Barnes, under the firm name of Barnes & Marsh. They remained together in the business until 1878, when, owing to the death of Mr. Barnes, Captain A. J. Hunt became partner of Mr. Marsh, by the purchase by him of Mr. Barnes' interest. This firm did business one year, when Mr. Marsh bought the interest of Mr. Hunt, since which time he has been alone in the business.

#### FURNITURE.

Phillip L. Kramer commenced business in the fall of 1882. He was born in Germany June 19, 1859. When a child his parents emigrated to the United States, and settled in Washington county, Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood, and received a common school education. He was married May 9, 1883, to Miss Lena T. Stephan, a native of Waukesha county, Wisconsin, born August 28, 1861. In the fall of 1882, he came to the village of Brownsdale, and engaged in the furniture trade, in connection with which he worked at his trade of carpenter. Mr. Kramer is a member of the Lutheran, Mrs. Kramer of the Episcopal Church.

#### CARGILL BROS'. ELEVATOR,

was built in the summer of 1876, by Aten & Munson. The building is a frame 24x30, and has a capacity of 6,000 bushels, the machinery of which is run by horse power. A warehouse 30x80 was built in connection

with the elevator about the same time. This property was purchased in the summer of 1880, by Cargill Bros., of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The grain trade was carried on by them under the able management of G. G. Curtiss, to which business coal was added. There is handled at this elevator about 40,000 bushels of grain per annum.

#### GRAIN BUYER.

George G. Curtiss, grain-buyer, was born in Middlesex county, Connecticut, in 1848. In 1857 he came with his parents to Houston county, Minnesota, where they resided until the fall of 1865, when they removed to Peddler's Grove, in Waseca county. George G. has been in the employ of Cargill Brothers, grain dealers, for nine years. He took charge of their business at Brownsdale, in 1880, which business he still follows. Mr. Curtiss was married in 1878, to Miss Alice B. Philips. She was born in Maine, in 1860. Arthur C., Gracie, Alma, are their children. Mrs. Curtiss is a member of the Baptist Church, Mr. Curtiss of the Masonic fraternity, at Brownsdale.

#### LUMBER.

The lumber business of Brownsdale is carried on by the firm of C. L. Coleman & Co., of La Crosse, Wisconsin. J. B. Graves has charge of their business here.

#### BLACKSMITHS.

Ole Hansen has a shop. He commenced working at his trade in 1876.

Knox Brothers are also engaged in blacksmithing on the east side of Main street.

#### WAGON MAKER.

Jens Jepson commenced working at wa-

gon making at Brownsdale in 1876, at his residence just east of Bacon's store. He now works in the shop of Ole Hansen.

PHYSICIANS.

C. S. Beaulieu, G. W. Gray, F. M. Johnson.

ATTORNEY.

A. J. Hunt.

PRESS.

Brownsdale *Journal*, Mrs. Rosa E. Moore, editress.

Those coming to the township later are: John Lynch, born in the county of Laitrim, Ireland, in 1814. In the spring of 1835 he came to the United States and settled in Schoharie county, New York. He was married to Nancy Bliven in April, 1840. She was born in Schoharie county in 1825. After his marriage he engaged in buying and shipping horses to New York City; was also engaged in farming until the year 1849, when he went to Rock county, Wisconsin, where he again engaged in farming. In 1860 he came to Mower county and settled at Brownsdale, where he remained until the winter of 1862, when he bought and entered as a homestead his present farm, containing 80 acres, in section 28.

Mr. Lynch is a member of the Catholic church. He was formerly a Republican, but is now a Democrat. Mr. Lynch has held local offices in the township.

A. A. Bacon was born in London, Canada, in 1851. He is a son of John and Margaret (Corlett) Bacon. The father a native of Essex, England, the mother of the Isle of Man. They were married in Detroit, Michigan. They emigrated to the United States in 1852, and settled at Waupun, Wis-

consin, and from there they went to Montello, thence to Mower county in 1861, where the mother still resides. They had a family of ten children, nine of whom are living, A. A. Bacon being the third child. He grew to manhood in Red Rock township, and received a common school education. He has always been engaged in farming with the exception of two years, which time he bought wheat at Brownsdale. Mr. Bacon was married in 1883 to Sarah Long. She was born in Canada, in 1860. Mr. Bacon's farm contains 160 acres, valued at \$3,525.

James M. Tanner, eldest son of Ebenezer E. Tanner, an old settler of Mower county, was born December the 18th, 1844, in Tioga county, Pennsylvania. He came with his parents to Mower county and settled in Red Rock township, where he has since lived. He enlisted August 19, 1862, in Company C, Ninth Minnesota Volunteers, serving until April 3, 1865, when he was discharged by reason of general disability contracted in the army. Mr. Tanner participated in the battles of Oxford and Nashville, besides other battles and skirmishes. He was married March 10, 1867, to Lois A. Dickens. She was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, December 19, 1844. She is the daughter of Robert Dickens, born in Tompkins county, New York, November 1, 1816. He went to Tioga county, Pennsylvania, where he married Lois Tanner, born June 18, 1814, by whom he had eight children. She died May 8, 1851. He again married Sally Warren, a native of New York. They came to Mower county November 6, 1864, and settled in Red Rock township, and afterward moved to Grand Meadow, where he died

August 15, 1879. The widow now lives in Red Rock township. By the second marriage they had seven children. They are members of the Seventh Day Adventist church.

Theron P. Bull was born in Chittenden county, Vermont, May 8, 1814. He grew to manhood in Franklin county, where he was married in 1835 to Miss Christina Goodwin. She was born in Franklin county, October 7, 1814. In 1853 they went to St. Lawrence county, New York, where they remained two years, when they removed to Winnebago county, Wisconsin, where they lived until the fall of 1862, when they came to Mower county and settled on section 13, in Red Rock township, where they still reside. His farm contains 80 acres, under a good state of cultivation. Previous to Mr. Bull's coming to the township he was a member of the Baptist church. Mr. Bull is a blacksmith by trade. When he first came to the county he worked two years at his trade in Austin, after which he built a shop in Brownsdale.

Mr. and Mrs. Bull have five children, Betsy A., Jane W., Henry P., Sarah E. and Adella E.

Charles Eager was born in Orleans county, Vermont, December 13, 1833. His father was a native of Marlborough, Massachusetts, of English extraction, being born in England; his mother was a native of Connecticut, of Holland extraction. She came to the United States in 1740, and settled in Connecticut. They had eleven children, Charles, the subject of our sketch, being the sixth. He grew to manhood in his native country, and received a common school education. In 1854, he went to Fox

Lake, Dodge county, Wisconsin, where he worked out on neighboring farms for three years. March 21st, 1858, he married Jane W. Ball, born in Orleans county, Vermont, February 14th, 1839. After his marriage he removed to Oxford, Marquette county. In 1863, Mr. Eager came to Mower county and settled in Red Rock township, where he still resides. His farm is in section 14, which contains 100 acres. Mr. Eager is a Republican, and takes an active interest in county and township affairs. Mr. Eager is a member of the United Brethren church. They have one child living, named Eugene.

Lucius L. Lamb was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, March 13, 1824. He is the son of Ebenezer R., and Sally (Gaylord) Lamb. The father was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, in 1796, where he lived until his death in 1872. The mother was a native of Vermont, born about 1805. Her parents moved to Pennsylvania when she was eighteen years of age, shortly after which she was married. There was born to this union nine children, Lucius L., Lucia, Charles C., James R., Sarah J., Jennett, Mary A., William C., (killed in the army) and Gaylord. Mrs. Lamb died about 1843. The father again married—Lucy, a sister of his first wife, by whom he had three children, Clarrissa, Philena, and Em. This wife died about 1858. Mr. Lamb was again married to Mrs. Hannah Fuller, who still lives in Pennsylvania. Lucius, of whom we write, was reared on his father's farm, receiving his education in the district school of that day. He was married June 4, 1846, to Venila A. Richards. She was born in the town of Milford, Otsego county, New York, November 3, 1822. In

the spring of 1855 they immigrated to Marquette county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming, remaining until July, 1864, when they came to Mower county, and settled in Red Rock township, where they still reside. Mr. Lamb is a Republican, and has held local offices. He is a member of Lafayette Lodge, No. 116, A. F. and A. M., at Brownsdale, of which he was a charter member. Mr. and Mrs. Lamb have one child, Waldo W. He is married, and lives in the township. He has two children, Venila A., Waldo A.

Gaylord Lamb, youngest son by the first marriage, and own brother of Mr. L. L. Lamb, made his home for some time in Mower county, afterwards took a claim in Watonwan county; afterwards went to the city of Mankato, Blue Earth county, and engaged in the general collecting business, which he still follows. His wife was Miss Libbie Oliver, a daughter of an old settler of Blue Earth county.

Arthur B. Warren, the youngest son of Anson and Sally (Babcock) Warren, was born November, 1852, in Tioga county, Pennsylvania. He came to Mower county when 12 years old, attended school and assisted his parents on their farm. He was apprenticed to learn the carpenter's trade when young, serving three years. He was married to Miss Della Bull, the youngest daughter of T. P. Bull, February 11, 1880. They have one child, named Theron Arthur. Mr. Warren is a resident of the town of Red Rock, and in politics is a Republican.

Clarence A. Warren, the oldest son of Anson and Sally (Babcock) Warren, was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, July 25,

1846. His father died in 1852, after which he went to live with his uncle, where he remained until 1856, when his uncle moved to Minnesota, after which he went to live with Theron Boyd, where he remained three years, attending school and making himself useful on the farm. He then left Mr. Boyd's and went to Mr. Vermilyea's, where he found employment as assistant in the hotel, of which Mr. Vermilyea was proprietor. He remained here until 1862, when he engaged as clerk in a store at Brooklyn, Potter county, Penn., remaining until March, 1864, when he enlisted in Company D, Fifty-third Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, serving until the close of the war. In November, 1865, he came to Red Rock township, where he remained until the spring of 1871, when he returned to Pennsylvania, and engaged in the drug trade with W. H. Vermilyea. Mr. Warren remained in that business about eighteen months when he sold out, returned to Mower county and engaged in the grocery business at Brownsdale. He soon after sold his stock and trade to A. L. Sleeper & Son. In the winter of 1873 he went to California. He was shot while on the way by a desperado, which disabled him for three months.

As soon as he was able to work, he found employment with Gerdellia, Petar & Co., of San Francisco, dealers and importers of teas and coffee. While in their employ, he made one business trip to China, Japan and Australia. He remained with this firm until March, 1876, when he left for Philadelphia, to attend the Centennial, and through the influence of Senator Sargeant, of California, he was placed in charge of a department of agricultural hall.

He was married November 16th, 1876, to Cora L. Smith, of Dunkirk, Chautauqua county, New York, the only child of Stephen and Caroline Smith. She was born at Smethport, McKane county, Pennsylvania, September 22, 1858. Her education was received at the high school in Dunkirk, Chautauqua county, New York. She also received a good musical education. Mr. Warren and wife came to Red Rock township, Mower county, in June, 1877, where they have since lived. They are the parents of three children, Stephen Phillip and Winnie Ford, Clarence Linn (deceased.)

Richard F. Pick was born in Lestershire, England, March 3, 1830, where he grew to manhood, and received a common school education, and was reared on the farm. In the spring of 1855 he emigrated to Dane county, Wisconsin, and engaged in farming, remaining until May, 1860, when he came to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he engaged in farming until 1867, when he sold out and came to Red Rock township and rented the farm on which he now resides in section 12, buying it the following December. Mr. Pick was married December 28, 1861, to Sarah Cuff, a native of Lestershire, England. She was born September 14, 1839. Her father died in England. In the fall of 1861 she in company with her mother, a brother and sister came to Wisconsin, where she was married. They have ten children, Mary E., Sarah A., Lucy J., William F., Leonard D., Ruth A., Kate Anora, Horace Richard, Lillie and Ruby M. Mr. Pick is a Republican and has held local offices. His farm contains 175 acres, under a good state of cultivation.

Reuben Rollings was born in Lestershire, England, April 7, 1829. He is a son of John and Lucy (Pick) Rollings, both natives of Lestershire, where Mr. Rollings' father was engaged in the mercantile business, also did a commission business. They both lived in their native country until their deaths. They had a family of eleven children, the subject of this sketch being the seventh child. He grew to manhood and received a good common school education. He was married February 18, 1856, to Jane Fisher. She was born in the same village as her husband, in March, 1856. Soon after their marriage they came to the United States and settled in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he remained engaged in farming until the fall of 1861, when he came to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he remained until the summer of 1867, when he moved to Waltham township, remaining there until the fall of 1877, when he removed to his present home in Red Rock township, which contains 80 acres. He also owns 120 acres in Waltham. In politics Mr. Rollings is a Republican, and has held local offices. Mr. and Mrs. Rollings are the happy parents of six children, Joseph W., Alfred F., Mary A., Amelia J., Henry J., Emma L.

Joseph H. Simpson was born in Kane county, Illinois, July 28, 1837, where he grew to manhood and received his education. He enlisted September 11, 1861, in Company I, Fifty-second Regiment, Illinois Infantry Volunteers, serving three years, when he was discharged by reason of expiration of term of service. He participated in the battle of Shiloh, April 6, 1862, where he received a gun shot wound in the breast. He

was also at the Siege of Corinth, besides other battles and skirmishes. In March, 1865, he came to Mower county, and bought a farm in section 13. Mr. Simpson was married November 15, 1865, to Mariah J. Rockwell. She was born in Nova Scotia, March 1, 1848. They have since lived in the township, with the exception of five years spent in Wisconsin. His farm contains 160 acres. Mr. Simpson is a member of Colonel Henry Rodgers Post No. 11 G. A. R. at Brownsdale. They are members of the Methodist church. Mr. and Mrs. Simpson have two children, Effie and Allie.

John Eagen was born in Canada, May 1, 1835. When a small boy his parents moved to Illinois, and from there to Wisconsin, settling in Waukesha county, where they died. In July, 1865, John, the subject of this sketch, came to Mower county, and rented land in Red Rock township. In 1868 he removed to his present home, which consists of 200 acres in section 25. He was married August 28, 1859, to Ellen McGovern. She was born in Monroe county, New York, January 15, 1839. When she was but eight years of age her parents moved to Waukesha county, Wisconsin, where she was married. Mr. and Mrs. Eagen are the parents of four children, Margaret A., Charles A., William J., Phillip H. Mr. Eagen and wife are members of the Catholic Church.

Leander Kirkland was born in Chautauqua county, New York, October 5, 1843. He is the son of James and Phoebe (Dawley) Kirkland, both natives of New York State. In 1864 the family moved to Winneshiek county, Iowa, settling near Decorah, where his parents died, the mother in 1868, the

father in 1872. Leander, of whom we write, was the youngest of four children. He was married in New York State, September 22, 1864, to Patience Rugg. She was born September 29, 1842. The same fall that they were married Mr. Kirkland returned with his wife, to Decorah, where he engaged in farming, until July 1870, when he removed to Mower county, and settled on the farm where he now lives, on section 34, which contains 200 acres. Mr. Kirkland is a Republican, and has held local offices. He is also a member of Lafayette Lodge No. 116, A. F. and A. M., at Brownsdale, also a member of the Austin Chapter, No. 14. He is also a member of the A. O. U. W., at Austin. They have one child, Phoebe Alice.

Corydon C. Rugg was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, October 8, 1844, where he grew to manhood and received a common school education. Mr. Rugg in 1865, went to Montana, where he remained two years. In 1867 went to Pennsylvania to learn engineering, remaining five years. Since that time he has been engaged in farming. He was married to Grace Whaley, February 19th, 1872, after which he returned to his home in New York State, remaining three years. In the spring of 1876, he came with his family to Mower county, and settled in Red Rock township. They removed to their present home in section 24, which consists of 80 acres, in October, 1881. In politics he votes for the best man; at present is a member of his township board. Mr. and Mrs. Rugg have two children, Nellie May, Eva Minnie.

Stephen P. Smith was born in McKean county, Pennsylvania, March 2, 1830. He

is a son of Eseck and Clara G. (Brewer) Smith, natives of Chenango county, New York. Their parents moved to Pennsylvania in an early day, and settled in McKean county, where they died. Eseck, the father of the subject of this sketch, was twice married. His second wife was Alma Gallup. By his first marriage there were six children, and two by the second.

Stephen P. grew to manhood on the farm, receiving his early education at the common schools, which was further advanced at the Wesleyan Seminary at Lima, Livingston county, New York. Upon leaving school he accepted a clerkship in the store of B. D. and H. Hamlin, of Smethport, Pennsylvania, remaining with them three years, when he engaged in the mercantile trade for himself at that place, remaining until January, 1860, when he went to Dunkirk, New York, and engaged in the mercantile business, which he followed until February, 1879, when he came to Mower county and settled on land which he had purchased in 1866, in Red Rock township. Mr. Smith was married to Caroline M. Ford, born at Mount Upton, New York, July 20, 1830. She received her education in the village school, which was advanced at the academy at Norwich, also at the Delaware Literary Institute at Franklin. She is the daughter of Bassel and Cynthia (Morgan) Ford. Mr. Ford lived at Mount Upton until his death, August 11, 1863. Mr. Ford was a lawyer of some eminence; was admitted to practice before the supreme court of the State, on motion of Hon. D. S. Dickinson of Binghamton. He continued in the practice of his profession until failing health compelled

him to withdraw from the active and exciting pursuits incident to his profession. He was postmaster of Mount Upton for upwards of twenty years. Mrs. Ford died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Smith, at Dunkirk, December 1, 1868. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been blessed with one child, Cora L., wife of Clarence A. Warren.

The first religious services were held by Rev. Moses Mapes, of the M. E. Church, at his residence in Brownsdale, in the summer of 1856.

#### BAPTIST CHURCH—BROWNSDALE.

In the spring of 1856, among the early settlers of the township was Rev. Milo Frary, a Baptist clergyman from Connecticut. He seems to have been devoted to his calling, for, asking little or no compensation, he preached quite regularly at the school house in Brownsdale, for two or three years. After he left, other ministers of the same denomination preached here at irregular intervals. Prominent among them was Rev. H. I. Parker, formerly of Beaver Dam, then a resident of Austin. Rev. Mr. Parker organized a Baptist church, May 26th, 1867, at the residence of A. H. Marsh, consisting of the following members: A. H. Marsh, Mrs. A. H. Marsh, L. W. Thompson, Mrs. L. Edwards.

At the same time the following were accepted as candidates for baptism, that rite being administered the ensuing Sunday. Lucius Edwards, E. W. Conner, Mrs. F. W. Conner.

In June, Mr. Parker accepted the invitation from this church and continued to preach to them and the Baptist church at Austin on alternate Sundays, until the November following, when he was succeeded by

Rev. Mr. Whittemore, who preached to them until July, 1868, from which time the church was without a pastor until January 3d, 1869, when Mr. Parker resumed his pastoral relations with it, continuing to preach here as before on alternate Sundays, until the spring of 1871.

He resigned the pastorate of the church October 2, 1874. From this time no regular services were held in the church for several years, when, being somewhat in debt for their church building, they sold it to the Congregational society, receiving money enough to pay their indebtedness, and taking a mortgage to secure the payment of the balance. The Congregational society finding themselves unable to meet obligations relinquished all claim on the church building which thus came again into the possession of the Baptist society. The church has had no regular preaching until the fall of 1882, when Rev. C. D. Belden took charge of the same, holding service here once in two weeks. In January, 1884, a series of meetings were commenced by Mr. Belden and continued about six weeks, resulting in the addition of 21, the present membership being 34.

#### CHRISTIAN CHURCH—BROWNSDALE.

The first members of the Christian Church in this place were Mr. and Mrs. John Setzer and their daughter Mary, from Virginia, who came to this State in July, 1857.

The first religious services of this denomination were held in the school house in Brownsdale, June, 1858, by Elder Grant of Brownville, Minn. A few weeks later, in July, 1858, a church was organized by Elder Charles Le Van, consisting of the follow-

ing members: John Setzer, Abegal Setzer, Hilliard Tilton, Mary Tilton, Henry C. Rogers, Lydia A. Stimson, Philip Setzer, Emily Setzer, Thomas Alred, Sarah Alred, Harvey E. Anderson, Ann Anderson, Frank Wood, Barbary Rugg, Charles F. Hardy, Augusta Dunton, Amanda Setzer.

Elder LeVan continued his ministerial labors for about a year and a half, visiting the church every four weeks, in his absence, John Setzer, an Elder in the church officiated at their meetings, which were held each first day of the week at his residence. This was continued until his death, July 17, 1863. From this time they were without a settled pastor, although they had occasional preaching from Thomas VanDorlan, A. P. Frost, B. W. Watkins, and others. No further additions were made to the church until March 28, 1871, when Elder David M. Haggard held a series of meetings at the residence of J. B. Sylvester, resulting in the following addition to the church: J. B. Sylvester, Mary A. Tanner, Nancy Stebbins.

At this time J. B. Sylvester was appointed an elder in the church, and thereafter when without a settled pastor. The members met at his residence on each first day of the week to break bread.

During the summer of 1876 the church erected a small, but neat and substantial church edifice costing something over \$1,000. Here they had occasional preaching from Elder Cooper, Elder Wilder and others, but were without a settled pastor, and death and removal had reduced their number, when in November, 1880, Elder Charles S. Beaulieu was called to the pastorate of the church. After a series of meet-



*C. S. Beaulieu No. 21*

ings continuing six weeks 27 additions were received, making a total membership of 33.

#### CHRISTIAN LORD'S DAY SCHOOL

was organized by Elder Chas. S. Beaulieu in their church building, January 1881, an attendance of 35. J. B. Sylvester was chosen superintendent and Miss Nellie Stimson, secretary.

The superintendents who have succeeded J. B. Sylvester are as follows: Albert Swift, Chas. S. Beaulieu, Mrs. Emma Glover, Mrs. Mary Tilton.

Greenfield is the present superintendent. The school is in a flourishing condition with a membership of 55.

Dr. Charles Severin Beaulieu was born in the department of the Loire, France, February 11, 1835. When five years of age, his parents came to the United States, remaining at New York one year, when, owing to his father being a political exile, went to Canada, where they lived about ten years, after which the family went to Oswego county, N. Y., where the parents died, the father in 1868, aged 86, the mother in 1872, at the age of 78. They had a family of thirteen children, the doctor being the eleventh. He received his education in France, receiving a classic, clerical education. He studied for the Priesthood and served two years as vicarage in France, after which he renounced the Faith and returned to New York State. In May, 1861, he raised a company for the service, into which he was mustered as first Lieutenant of Company "D," Twenty-Fourth Regiment New York Volunteers. He was promoted to the Captaincy of his company, and was mustered out in June, 1863. Dr. Beaulieu par-

ticipated with his regiment in the second Bull Run battle, August 30th, 1862, and several other minor battles. He was wounded several times by shells, sustaining severe injuries. He also received a bayonet wound in the knee at South Mountain. He was ordered before an examining board and received a commission as captain in Company "H," Fourth Regiment, serving until February, 1867. Dr. Beaulieu after leaving the army went to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he remained until March, 1868, when he came to Dodge county, February 22nd, 1878, where he united with the Christian church, preaching two years. He was ordained an Evangelist of the church at Minneapolis, in October, 1882. In November, 1880, he came to Brownsdale, and took charge of the church. The doctor is living with his third wife, his first and second wives having died, the latter in Kentland, Indiana. His present wife was Mrs. Lena Slocum. She is a native of Vermont, where she was born in 1850. She was the widow of Dr. Frank Slocum, of Marion, Olmsted county, Minnesota, by whom she has one child, Frank. Dr. Beaulieu is a Republican, and is a member of Colonel Henry Rogers Post No. 11, G. A. R., of which he is chaplain.

#### METHODIST CHURCH.

Sometime in 1857 this church was organized, by Rev. Mr. Dyer, circuit preacher. Among the first members were Gilbert Schimmerhorn and wife, John Call and wife, Mrs. F. M. Drown. Mr. Dyer preached here for some months, and was succeeded by Rev. Moses Mapes, who preached here before the organization of the church, as well as after. It is thought Rev. Mr. Trowbridge followed

Mr. Mapes, and later Rev. David Tice. The church has usually had a pastor in connection with Lansing. The last was Rev. Mr. Satterley, who was here in 1881 and 1882, since which time they have been without a pastor. They have no church edifice, using the Baptist whenever they have service.

In the summer of 1870 work was commenced on the Baptist Church building, a modest frame structure 30x54 costing about \$3,000. Although incomplete, the funeral services of Col. Henry C. Rogers were held within its walls, August, 1871.

In the fall of 1871 Rev. Amos Weaver, of Rochester, N. Y., became pastor of the church, preaching here and at Lansing alternately. Quite a number of additions were made to the church during the three years he continued their pastor.

Moses Mapes, a Methodist clergyman, came from Rockford, Illinois, to Udolpho, Minnesota, in 1855. He came to Red Rock in the spring of 1856, taking a claim in section 4. He is spoken of as a man of uncommon ability, a natural orator, and an exemplary Christian. He remained here for several years, preaching quite regularly at the school house in Brownsdale, as well as at his residence. He moved to High Forest, Minnesota, and from there to Iowa, where he still resides.

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH—BROWNS-  
DALE.

This church was organized sometime in 1859, by Rev. Mr. Reeves, of Pleasant Grove, who with Rev. Mr. Chamberlain, of Fillmore county, held a series of meetings in the school house in Brownsdale. Among the first members were: Mrs. Nehemiah

Woodard, Mrs. Almeda Johnson, J. L. Leshler, Mrs. J. L. Leshler.

Rev. John L. Leshler, their first settled pastor, came from Wisconsin, to this place in 1859. He preached here for several years, when he moved to Udolpho, and subsequently to Iowa. After he left, the church never a strong one, became so reduced by removals and deaths that its organization was given up; its few remaining members finding a home in other and different churches.

Union Sabbath School was organized by a Mr. Setzer, from Albert Lea, in May, 1883, at the school house in district No. 116. The first superintendent was Charles Tompkins; secretary, Edward Tompkins; treasurer, Mrs. Sarah Drown. Meetings were held every Sabbath until October, when it closed with a Sabbath school convention. The school was re-organized in May, 1884, with the same officers with the exception of treasurer, Mr. L. W. Thompson being elected to that office. There has been an average attendance since its organization of 44.

EDUCATIONAL.

School District No. 28 was organized in 1856, and a school house built that year. The first teacher was Miss Sarah Ticknor. This school house was burned in 1858, but immediately rebuilt. This house was also burned in 1871, and replaced by the one now standing. The teachers for the summer term of 1884 were Mr. H. Perrin and Miss Cora Lynch.

District No. 37 was organized in 1864. The first school was a select school, under the management of Mrs. Angeline A. Tanner, which was a summer term in 1859, at the house of Elder Milo Farril in section 13,

with an attendance of about half a dozen. The first district school was a winter term in 1860 and 61, held in the log granary of Mr. E. E. Tanner, in section 12. In 1862 a frame school house 12x24 was erected in section 11. The first school in this house was taught by S. P. Stewart. Miss Almida Tilton is the present teacher.

District No. 39 was organized in the summer of 1858, and a two months' term of school kept by Tina Perry. The school was held at the Redbush house in section 5. Schools were held at neighboring houses in the district until the spring of 1864, when a frame house 16x22 was built at a cost of \$550. The first school in this house was under the management of Eliza A. Simes. The present teacher is Cenia Lynch.

District No. 41. The first school was a summer term in 1863, kept by Miss Emma Hoy, in a small house in section 33, with an attendance of about half a dozen. The following summer the neighbors built a temporary building of poles set in the ground and boarded up, in section 34. The first school—a three months' term—was kept in this building, by Miss Mary Lynch. This building was used for school purposes two years. The district was organized in 1865, and a good substantial school house erected the following summer, at a cost of \$900. It is a frame 20x24, located in section 34. The first school was kept by Miss Emma Hoy. The present teacher is Miss Davis.

District No. 42. The first school in this district was a summer term in 1865, in a board shanty erected for the purpose by the district, located in section 23. Miss Susan Bacon, of Brownsdale, was the first teacher.

In the fall of 1866, the district erected a school house on the site of the shanty, at a cost of \$900, which was completed in time for a term of school that winter, Mrs. Sarah E. Drown being the teacher. The building remained on this site until the fall of 1876, when it was moved to section 24, its present location. Miss A. Stokes, present teacher.

District No. 68 was partially organized in 1869, officers elected and the number given to the district, but owing to some irregularities about the returns the organization went down. There was nothing more done until 1876, when the district was reorganized and a frame school house erected 16x22, at a cost of \$228, which was completed in time for a term of school that summer, Miss L. Lynch being the teacher. The present teacher is Rose Grimshaw, of Lansing township, with an attendance of about 20.

District No. 115, is a joint district and includes territory in both Windom and Red Rock townships. The district was organized in 1878, and a school house erected the following spring on the southwest corner of section 35. The building is a frame 24x30 and cost \$800. The first school in this house was a three months term, kept by Mrs. Mary Hathaway, (she is now the wife of E. Slocum, of Windom township,) with an attendance of 14. Bertha Case, present teacher.

District No. 116 was organized by an act of the Legislature in their session of 1880 and 1881. The same spring a frame building 18x24 was erected at a cost of \$500. The building was completed in time for a three months summer term of school, which was kept by Miss Mary Rugg, with an attendance of 14. The present school is under the supervision of Mrs. Mary Jordan, attendance 12.

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

## SARGEANT TOWNSHIP.

This is one of the northern tier of towns in Mower county. Its limits are those of congressional township 104 north, range 15 west of the fifth principal meridian. It is bounded on the north by Dodge county, east by Pleasant Valley, south by Dexter, and west by Waltham. The surface is rolling, the soil a somewhat heavy loam, being mixed in some places with clays is in all parts quite productive. The land is an open prairie, except along the banks of Root river, and its principal affluent, which are skirted with a flourishing growth of timber.

Root river entering the town in section 35, flows in a general northerly direction till it reaches section 12, through which it takes an easterly course into Pleasant Valley.

In 1860, John Butler, from Wisconsin, settled on the southeast quarter of section 11, which had been pre-empted by his brother Fred a few years before. Here he built a house and fenced the land. Soldiers were now wanted, hosts of them, to defend their country's flag. Butler enlisted and went to the war. Its perils he survived, but

never came back to this town. When last heard from he was living in Minneapolis.

An Englishman named William Langton, settled on the northeast quarter of section 13, in the year 1863. Two years later he sold his place and moved to Rochester, where he died. His widow is still living in that city.

Henry N. Sargeant, a native of Canada, having come across the border to seek a new home in the states, arrived here some time in the year 1865. He found a desirable location in the southeast quarter of section 11, and there built him a house. Since his death his son and daughter have continued to occupy the homestead.

Samuel King, a native of England, coming from Olmsted county in 1869, settled on section 13. He now lives on section 26.

Harry N. Sargeant, one of the pioneers of the town which bears his name, was a native of Canada, born in Shefford county, Province of Quebec, June 19, 1817. His parents were both natives of Vermont. They went to Canada in 1800, and were among

the first settlers in Shefford county, Canada. His father purchased land from the government and cleared a farm, and made his home there until the time of his death in 1864, at the age of 94. The subject of this sketch was reared to agricultural pursuits. He was married December 22, 1838, to Anna Parker. She was born in Canada, December 22, 1821. At the time of his marriage he settled on the old homestead, and lived there until 1858, and then moved to Wisconsin, and settled in Dodge county. He purchased a farm and lived there until 1865, when he sold out, and in March, 1865, started for Minnesota, coming on the cars as far as LaCrosse, then with a team crossed the river on ice and made his way to Mower county. He had been here the year before and purchased the south half of section 11, town 104, now known as the town of Sargeant. At that time there were 60 acres of the land under cultivation, and a small frame house on the southeast quarter. He planted a grove and rebuilt and added to the house and engaged in raising grain and stock. His death occurred January 25th, 1884. Mrs. Sargeant died in Wisconsin, March 1st, 1864. There were eight children born to this couple, and all are living, Roxana, Harriet P., Alice L., Eliza W., Harry A., Malcolm, George W., Edwin J. Mr. Sargeant was the first town clerk in the town of Sargeant, and held the office for several years. He was also school district clerk and postmaster. His son, Harry A., the present town clerk, was born in the town of Stukely, Shefford county, Canada, May 26th, 1855. He was but three years of age when his parents moved to Wisconsin, and was in his 10th year when

they came to Mower county, and has always lived on the old homestead. He was married January 24th, 1884, to L. Anna Johuson. She was born in Wisconsin. He has been prominent in town affairs, and has been elected assessor twice, and has also been justice of the peace.

Samuel King settled in Sargeant township in 1869, on section 13. There were 30 acres broken, and a log house and granary on the place, which constituted the improvements. He improved 200 acres of the land and weather boarded and painted the house, built a good granary and lived there until 1875, when he purchased a half section in 23 and 26 and moved there, where he has since resided. He has built a frame house, on a knoll, in the edge of a natural grove. He was engaged in raising wheat until the failure of the crop, and has since turned his attention to raising stock and dairying. He was born in the town of Burwas, Sussex county, England, Nov. 11th, 1822, and there grew to manhood. In 1840 he left his native land and came to America. He first located at Buffalo, New York, where he found work in a brick yard. After a few years he purchased land and engaged in the manufactory of brick. In 1855 he bought a farm in the town of Evans, Erie county, New York. In 1858 he traded the farm for 320 acres of land in the town of High Forest, Olmsted county, Minnesota. In the fall of 1858 he started for the west with his wife and seven children. With a pair of horses and a wagon he drove to Buffalo, and there took passage on a steamer for Chicago, and then with his team started overland, and after a journey of 32 days arrived at his des-

mination. His neighbors assisted him to build a small log house, into which the family moved before there was any floor. He made a table of a dry goods box, and some stools to use in place of chairs. The bedsteads he made of poles. He raised his first crop of wheat in 1859, when he sowed three bushels and harvested six, and drove five miles to get it threshed. In 1860 he had a good crop, which he marketed at Winona, a distance of 55 miles, and sold it from 40 to 60 cents a bushel. In 1860 he built a good stone house, drawing the lumber from Winona to finish it with. In 1869 he traded his farm for land in Mower county, and moved here in 1869. He was married in 1847 to Caroline H. Miller. She was born in Germany, March 20th, 1825, and came to America with her parents when twelve years of age. They have seven children, Lewis F., Catherine L., Charles E., Samuel H., Jessie A., George W., and Benjamin F.

Nelson A. Sumner came to Mower county in 1871, and built a house on the northwest quarter of section 35, town of Sargeant. His brother, Warner A., had laid a land warrant on this land in 1857. Nelson A. was born in the town of Plymouth, Windsor county, Vermont, in April, 1838. He received his education at the district schools and at Ludlow Academy. After leaving school he engaged in farming and teaching until 1861, when he enlisted in September of that year in Company B, Fifth Vermont Volunteers, and went south and joined the army of the Potomac, and remained with them until November, 1862, when he was discharged on account of disability and returned to Vermont. He re-enlisted in July, 1863,

in Company M, Eleventh Vermont Heavy Artillery, and was stationed near Washington until January, 1864, when he was appointed First Lieutenant in the Twentieth U. S. Colored Regiment, and went to Port Hudson, Louisiana, and remained until May, and then went to Matagorda Island, Texas, where they remained but a short time and then went to New Orleans, and remained there until December 25th, and then to Mississippi, where they stopped for a short time, and then on to Fort Gaines, near Mobile, and remained there until February, 1865. After that he was stationed at New Orleans and Millikin's Bend. In November, 1865, he returned to New York, and was discharged, and went to Vermont. He soon after entered a law office and commenced the study of law and was soon after appointed register of probate for Fair Haven district, and served two years. He made his home in Vermont until 1869, when he went to Iowa, and remained there until the date of his settlement in this county, town of Sargeant. He was married in January, 1876, to Mary C., the daughter of Nelson J. and Mary Ann (Baldwin) Huntington. She was born in Ohio, May 20, 1853, and died August 9, 1877. She left one child, named Rosalie A. She died when twenty-two months old.

In 1872 or in 1873 Hans Peterson, C. W. Oswald, Nils Christianson, P. Johnson, O. C. Osbern and G. Thorson came here:

Oswald was a German. He settled on the southwest quarter of section 11, selling out in 1882 and moving to Rochester.

Christianson was a Dane. He settled on

the southwest quarter of section 22, but sold in 1880 and went to Big Stone county.

Peterson, also a Dane, settled in the northeast quarter of section 16. He stayed there until 1882, in which year he sold his place and removed to Marshall, where he now lives.

Thorson, a native of Norway, settled on the southwest quarter of section 35, and lived there until the present year, 1884. He is now in Dakota.

In the year 1874 Peter Nilson and his son Nils Peterson, natives of Denmark, took possession of the lands they still occupy on sections 8 and 16. During the same year Thor Johnson, Gjernes, his son, Nils T. Gjernes and Philip Johnson, all natives of Norway, came here. The first named settled on the northeast quarter of section 11. He is now in Crow Wing county.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The township of Sargeant was organized in 1873; previous to that time the west half of its territory had been attached to Waltham, and the east half to Pleasant Valley township. The first town meeting was held on the 16th of September at the house of Harry N. Sargeant. Mr. Sargeant was chosen moderator, and James Lowry clerk of the meeting. The following were elected officers to serve until March, 1874:

Chairman of the Board—Samuel King.

Supervisors—P. C. Olson and P. Johnson.

Clerk—H. N. Sargeant.

Treasurer—P. C. Olson.

Justices of the Peace—L. King and Nels Christianson.

Constables—L. King and Hans Peterson.

Assessor—C. W. Oswald.

At the annual meeting held March 11, 1884, at the Sargeant school house, the following officers were elected:

Chairman—Jacob Hoffman.

Supervisors—John T. Gjernes and George Wiegner.

Clerk—Harry N. Sargeant.

Treasurer—Nels Peterson.

Justices of the Peace—Harry Sargeant and B. F. King.

Constable—G. W. King.

John T. Gjernes, a member of the Board of supervisors, came to Mower county in 1874, and bought the southeast quarter of section 2, where he now lives. He was born in Norway, in September, 1849. He made his home in Norway until 1867, when he left his native land for America, taking passage in a sail vessel, landing at Quebec after a voyage of six weeks. He came directly to Minnesota and located in Dodge county, where he remained until 1874. He was joined in marriage in December 1873, to Miss Jennie Knutson. They are the parents of five children named, Jacob, Agnes, Theodore, Clara and Mary. Mr. Gjernes has taken a lively interest in town affairs; has held the office for four years. He has been treasurer of his school district for eight years. In politics he is Republican. He is a member of St. Oloff's Lutheran church.

Nels Peterson, the town treasurer, is a native of Denmark, born March 11, 1848. He attended school from seven until fourteen years of age, then engaged in agricultural pursuits. When he was nineteen years of age he left his native land and came to America; landed at Quebec; came directly to Minnesota and engaged in farming near Kas-

son, Dodge county, until 1875, when he came to Sargeant, and bought the southeast quarter of section 17, where he now lives. He has improved the land and erected a good set of buildings. He was joined in marriage in 1874 to Betsy Johnson, a native of Norway. They have five children, named Emma, Peter, Mary, Matilda and Albert. Mr. Peterson was elected town treasurer the year following his settlement in the town, and has served in that capacity continuously since that time.

Swen Swenson is a native of Norway, and was born August 12, 1842. He remained in his native land until 1869, when he came to America, and after a voyage of twenty-one days landed at Portland, Maine, and came directly to LaCrosse, Wisconsin, where he remained six years, engaged in farming. In 1876 he came to Mower county and settled on the southeast quarter of section 33, town of Sargeant, where he built a good house in which he still resides. He now owns and occupies 160 acres, and spends his time in raising stock and grain. He has been prominent in town affairs, and has held the office of chairman of the board of supervisors for three years. Mr. Swenson is a member of the Lutheran church, and in politics is a Republican.

Charles L. Schwartz, the present assessor, came to Mower county in 1877. He bought the northwest quarter of section 17, erected a good set of frame buildings, and lived there until 1882, when he bought the place which he now occupies, the southeast quarter of section 17. He is a native of Ohio, born February 7th, 1851. When he was but ten years old his parents removed to Wisconsin,

and settled in Sheboygan county, where his father engaged in mercantile trade and lumber business. The subject of our sketch made his home there until seventeen years of age, when he came to Minnesota and engaged with his brother, then a manufacturer of soda water at Rochester. He continued in his employ three years, then bought an interest in the business, remaining there until 1877, when he came to Mower county as before stated. He was married November 18, 1872, to Miss O. Labodde, a native of Germany. Five children blessed this union, named Antonia, Ferdinand, Cora, Oscar, Freddie. He was elected chairman of the board in 1857, and served two terms; has also served as justice of the peace.

There are three school districts in Sargeant, of which the following is the record:

School District No. 91. The first school house built in the town was in this district. It was built in 1875, in the northeast corner of section 15. In the summer of that year was held the first school term, Eliza W. Sargeant being the teacher. As most of the pupils in the district are of Norwegian parentage, instructors have been employed during vacations to teach in that language. Knud Arhns was the first Norsk teacher.

District No. 111. This district was organized in 1879, with these officers: Lewis Larson, Director; Ferdinand Aigner, Treasurer; B. F. King, Clerk. A school house was built in the same year, at a cost, when complete, furnished with patent seats and desks, of \$575. It stands on the northeast corner of section 26. Ella King was the first teacher here employed.

District No. 113. The following is the

list of officers chosen at the organization of this district in 1880: Hans Johnson, Clerk; Nels Peterson, Treasurer; Julius Johnson, Director. The school house is situated on the southwest quarter of section 9. It was built in 1880. The school was first taught by T. H. Rounds.

The few attempts which have been made to run a hotel in this town have met with little success. A house for the entertainment of travelers is said to have been built at an early day in the history of the settlement, on the northeast quarter of section 35, by a man named Seckley (word of doubtful spelling.) The property soon passed into the hands of one Dilarzon Ketchum, who, finding the

business not a paying one, was glad, in his turn to find a purchaser. Henry Bagley, who bought out Mr. Ketchum, kept the hotel open but a year, when he removed to Udolpho township, where he remains a resident. Not long after the house was closed it was burned down. No other has since been built for a similar purpose.

In the spring of 1865 a man named William Pitcher, put up a shanty on section 26, in which he kept for sale a small stock of goods. With so few settlers in the neighborhood, it is evident that trade could not have been very brisk. The store was closed at the end of the summer and Pitcher left the township.

## CHAPTER XXXIV.

### UDOLPHO TOWNSHIP.

Udolpho comprises township 104, range 18, and is bounded by Dodge county on the north, by Waltham on the east, Lansing and Freeborn county on the south and west, being the northwest corner township in the county. The Cedar River enters the town from Dodge county, in section 4, runs in a southerly and southeasterly direction through sections 8, 16, 21, 22, 27, 26, and makes its exit from section 35. Timber in an early day was quite plentiful on either side of the river, which was mostly cut by the early settlers for building purposes. There is, at the

present time, some second growth timber in the township. East and west of the Cedar is a fine prairie, with a black loam, underneath which is a clay subsoil.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

William Tullis is said to be the first settler in Udolpho township. He settled on the northeast quarter of section 21, in February, 1855. He built a log cabin 14x14, and covered it with sods. His family consisted of wife and four children. They remained on the claim during that summer, but returned

to Iowa, from whence they came, to winter. They afterwards returned to the township, remaining a few years, when they returned to Indiana.

The next to settle in the township was Thomas Richardson, Richard and William Green, brothers.

Thomas Richardson settled in section 16. He was from St. Lawrence county, New York, and is still living in the township.

Richard Green settled in section 9, William Green in section 15. Richard lived in the town until the breaking out of the rebellion, when he enlisted, went south and was killed at the battle of Nashville. William enlisted, went south, served three years and returned to the township, remaining until about 1874, when he removed to Todd county, Minnesota, where he still lives.

In June, 1855, an addition was made to the little settlement by several families of Norwegians. They were mostly well to do farmers from Rock and Dane counties, Wisconsin. They brought with them quite a stock.

Knute Olson settled in section 31. Andrew Anderson settled in section 9. Solomon Wilcox settled in the township in the spring of 1855. He was a native of Crown Point, New York, born in 1793. He went to Canada, and from there to Rockford, Ill., and from there to Mower county, as above stated. His wife was Sarah Jones. She was a native of Middlebury, Vermont, born in 1808. They had a family of eight children. Mrs. Wilcox died in the township in April, 1862. After his wife's death Mr. Wilcox sold out and removed to Charles City, Iowa. He died at Mount Vernon, Iowa, in the fall of 1867.

Andrew Anderson, one of the pioneers of Mower county, settled in section 9. He erected a small log cabin on his claim, which he covered with prairie sods. He lived in this house about two years, when he moved the cabin a short distance, which he rebuilt and covered with a shingle roof, making it more comfortable for a dwelling. They lived in this house until 1878, when the old house gave way to a commodious frame house. Mr. Anderson is largely engaged in grain and stock raising, for the convenience of which his farm is well provided with suitable barns and outbuildings. Mr. Anderson is a native of Norway, born September 25, 1820. He attended the common schools of his native land, and when of sufficient age worked out on neighboring farms. His father died when he was seventeen years of age. In 1851 emigrated to the United States and settled in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he pre-empted some land; remaining until 1855, when he sold out and came to Mower county, as above stated. Mr. Anderson was married to Mary Joehansen in June, 1848. She was a native of Norway. Five children were born to them, viz.: Annie, Ole, Isabelle, Carrie, Joeanna. Mrs. Anderson died March 26, 1871, aged 55. Mr. Anderson was again married to Carrie Stone, a native of Norway, came with her parents to the United States in 1869. They have one child, Hannah. Mr. Anderson is a Republican, and a member of the Lutheran church at Blooming Prairie.

Knute Olson was born in 1812, in Norway, where he lived with his parents on a farm until 1837, when on April 14, of that year, he was married to Else, oldest daughter

of Halver and Ingre Nelson. She was born in 1815. They came to Dane county, Wisconsin, where he entered some land. After remaining there about three years. Came to Mower county, and settled in Udolpho township. Mr. Olson lived in the township until his death, in 1867. He left a wife and four children to mourn his loss, who are still living in the township. The children are Halver, Jane, Ole, Sivert. Their farm contains 160 acres, with 40 acres adjoining belonging to the oldest son. Mrs. Olson, since her husband's death, has built a comfortable log house in section 31. Mr. Olson and family were members in good standing of Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. In politics he was a Republican.

The Nellers came in June of this year, 1856, and consisted of Francis A., and son, Sebastian, Francis Neller, a nephew, Joseph Neller, another nephew. They are of German descent. They came here from Jefferson county, Wisconsin. Francis A. Neller, Sr., pre-empted the southwest quarter of section 14, Sebastian the northwest quarter of the same section.

John L. Neller was born in Baden, Germany, December 25, 1841. He came to America in 1852, and was married April 22, 1869, to Emma M. Stokes. She was born in Winnebago county, Wisconsin, April 27, 1850. He came with his parents to Udolpho township, where they settled in 1856. His farm contains 200 acres. Mr. Neller enlisted August 9, 1862, in Company C, Ninth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, served until August, 1865; was taken sick at Mobile about the time Lee surrendered, from the effects of sunstroke, and remained there until

the last days of February, 1866, from the effects of which he draws a pension. Is a member of Austin Lodge No. 20, I. O. O. F.

John L. Neller is the son of Francis A. and Magdalena (Miller) Neller, who came to America, bringing a family of seven children, viz.: Margaret, who is dead, Sebastian, who went to Blue Earth county in 1863, where he died January 29, 1878, Johanna, who married Joseph Neller and lives in section 23, John L., the subject of this sketch, Martin, also a resident of Blue Earth county, Sophia, wife of Alexander Latourelle, and August—both reside in Blue Earth county.

The mother died in Udolpho in 1862. The father moved to Blue Earth county, where he died December 13, 1883.

Sebastian lived in the township until the summer of 1864, when he sold out and went to the town of Medo, Blue Earth county, Minnesota, where he died January 29, 1878.

Francis Neller settled in section 15, where he still lives. Joseph Neller settled in section 23. He still resides in the township.

John Day settled in section 22, in August, 1856. He was from Iowa here. He lived in the township until 1877, when he sold out to Mr. D. E. Stimson and returned to Iowa. He was a native of England; is said to have been "a slow, easy going man, and loved his pipe and gun." He is remembered by his neighbors as an honest, upright man.

Orasmus D. Rhoades, an early settler of Udolpho township, was born in New York, October 27, 1817. He went to Chautauqua county, New York, where he was married to Mariah Hunter October 6, 1844. She was born in the City of New York, October 19,

1825. In 1853 he came to Clinton county, Iowa, and in August, 1856, he came to Mower county and settled in section 22, town of Udolpho, where he entered land and built a house. He enlisted in 1863 in the Ninth Minnesota Infantry Volunteers. He went south with his regiment and was taken prisoner at the battle of Guntown, Tennessee. He was first sent to Andersonville, and from there to Milon, where he died—it is said of starvation—December 24, 1864.

Mrs. Rhoades still lives on the old homestead with her son, O. J. Rhoades. Mr. and Mrs. Rhoades had a family of six children, Oscar J., Mary C., the wife of B. M. Carll; Malina, the wife of Norman Carll; Amelia J., the wife of C. King, of Minneapolis; Loretta E., wife of John Andrews; Harriett O., wife of Seavy, a resident of the township. Mrs. Rhoades was a member of the Free Will Baptist church, the first church organization in the township.

O. J. Rhoades was born September 17, 1845, in Chautauqua county, New York. He came to Mower county with his parents, where he grew to manhood, and received a common school education. He has always been engaged in farming, and has made his home with his mother on the old farm.

Milton McCall, an old settler of Udolpho township, was born in Seneca county, New York, September 22, 1801. His father was a native of Delaware county, New York, his mother of New Jersey. When Milton was fifteen years of age, his parents moved to Allegheny county, where he married Lucy Searles. She was born in Vermont. She died in New York. Mr. McCall married Julia A. Caldwell for his second wife. She

was born in Vermont in 1812. In 1856 Mr. McCall came to Mower county, and pre-empted a claim in section 34, in Udolpho township, on which he commenced the erection of a log house, getting it up as high as the windows. It, however, was burned by prairie fires that fall. Mr. McCall returned to his home in New York, and April 20th started for his new home in Minnesota, with his eldest son, leaving his wife behind. After leaving Chicago, his son, while asleep, as supposed, walked off the cars and was killed. Mr. McCall returned with the dead body of his son to his old home, which he had so recently left, so full of hope for the future. After the burial of his son, Mr. McCall immediately returned with his family to Mower county, and lived several years on their old homestead, after which they removed to Lansing village, where they now reside. They have one child living. Mr. McCall is a son of Judge McCall, of Western New York. He was a member of the New York Legislature eight, and of the Senate four years.

Andrew Ingleson, one of the pioneers of Mower county, is a native of Norway, born October 5, 1844. He left his native land in 1851, landing at Quebec after a voyage of nine weeks. He left immediately for Michigan, where he was taken sick, remaining two months. He then went to Dane county, Wisconsin, where he remained five years. In June, 1856, came to Mower county and settled in the northeast quarter of section 4, in the town of Udolpho. He erected a small log house, in which he lived ten years, when he built a good log house on the southeast corner of the same section, where he now

lives. He uses the old log house for a blacksmith shop. In the summer of 1861 he made eight trips to Winona with wheat, taking him from seven to ten days to make a trip. Mr. Ingleson has 240 acres of land. He was married in 1870 to Caroline Ingbert. They have a family of eight children, Ingvert, Julia, Mary, Emil, Gurena, Albert, Emma and Christian.

Mr. Ingleson is a member of the Lutheran church at Blooming Prairie. In politics Mr. Ingleson is a Republican.

During the fall the little settlement was increased by three families, viz: Charles N. Stimson, Nathaniel Reed and George Pierson. Accompanying them were Albert Stimson, a brother of Charles N., from Chatfield, Fillmore county. He was a single man. Henry C. Rogers, from Vermont, also a single man. Timothy B. Andrews, from Iowa, settled in section 27, where he lived until 1864-5, when he sold out and returned to Iowa. When last heard from he was living in Northwestern Wisconsin. He was an odd man. The following incident is related of him: Among other things he was a great *cater*. One morning he partook of an early breakfast, after which he called on his neighbor, O. D. Rhoades. They being at breakfast, asked him to eat, which invitation was accepted, after which he went to Nathaniel Reed's, where he was fortunate in getting another invitation to breakfast, which he also accepted. He then went to Charles N. Stimson's and got breakfast; from there to the Neller's, of whom there were three families. When he reached the last, being urged to eat more, excused himself by saying "he could

not eat much, as this was his seventh breakfast." He was of course excused.

A Mr. Ells located in section 35, where he lived about two years, when he left the country.

A Mr. Bigley settled in section 26. He had a family, and lived in the township until 1863, when he removed to Lansing township, where he died the next year. His wife, with the family, returned to New York State.

Benjamin Vaughan, a brother of Alansing A. Vaughan, lived in the township until 1872. He now lives in Waseca county.

Ole Christianson was born in Norway, September 8, 1835. He came to America with his parents in 1846, and settled in Wisconsin, where they remained until the spring of 1855, when they removed to Mower county and settled on section 19 in the town of Udolpho.

Mr. Christianson was married May 15, 1860, to Carrie Hillson. She was born in Norway in 1838. She came with her parents to America in 1857, and settled in Mower county.

Mr. Christianson owns a fine farm of 240 acres in Udolpho township; also 20 acres of timber across the line in Freeborn county. Mr. and Mrs. Christianson are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church. They have a family of nine children, Christian, deceased, Rosa, Christ, Mary, Henry, Jane, Bennett, Carl, Thea, Ida and Nellie.

Mr. Christianson is a staunch Republican, and has held offices of trust in the township.

Bennett Christianson was born in Norway November 11, 1843. His parents emigrated to America in 1846, and settled in Dane county, Wisconsin, where they remained un-

til 1855, when they removed to Mower county, and settled on section 19, where the father died in 1874. The mother is still living on the homestead with her son Bennett, the subject of this sketch.

He was married in 1870 to Bell Ingerbretson. She was born in Norway in 1848. Mr. and Mrs. Christianson have seven children, Rosa, Mary D., Christian B., Ingerbret, Jane C., Clara B. and Lena.

Mr. Christianson is a Republican, and is a member of the township board; has also held the office of treasurer four years.

Seth S. Washburn, an old settler of Udolpho township, was born in Windsor county, Vermont, June 11, 1826. He is a son of James and Ruth (Sanford) Washburn, both natives of Massachusetts. The father was born in 1783, and the mother in 1785. The parents of Mr. Washburn, Sr., emigrated to Vermont in 1785. The parents of Mrs. Washburn also moved to Vermont when she was young. They were married in Vermont, where they died, the father May 9, 1861, the mother November 18, 1869.

Mr. Washburn, Sr., was twice married. His first wife was Polly Chadwick. They were married in 1806. She died in 1815. By this marriage he had four children. By his second marriage he had five children. Mr. Washburn, the subject of this sketch, being the fourth. He grew to manhood on the farm, and received a district school education. He was married in Vermont September 4, 1853, to Julia A. McQuivey, a native of Chittenden county, Vermont, born July 4, 1825. In the fall of 1856 he left his native State with his family and settled in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he remained until

May, 1857, when he came to Mower county and settled on the northwest quarter of section 17, which he entered from the government, on which he still resides. Mrs. Washburn died June 14, 1881. Mr. Washburn's family are all members of the Methodist church, of which his wife was also a member. Mr. Washburn is a Republican and has held local offices.

Coming here with but little means, Mr. Washburn has, by hard work and industry, accumulated a nice property and a pleasant home. His farm contains 220 acres, with a nice residence and good out buildings.

Mr. and Mrs. Washburn had born to them six children, Sanford S., Jennie M., Hattie L., Emma H., James L., deceased, Julius E., deceased.

Henry Dennis was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, January 13, 1850. He is a son of Sylvester A. Dennis, a pioneer of Waltham township. Henry came with his father's family to Waltham township, where he received a common school education. He was married September 5, 1872, to Caroline Abrahamson. She was born in Sweden, July 5, 1854. They have one child, Alfred D. In politics Mr. D. is a Republican and has held local offices. His farm is located in section 12, and contains 120 acres. He is a member of the M. E. Church.

Edward Bassett was born in New York City, July 20, 1819. His parents moved to Michigan in 1828, where they died, the father in 1860, the mother in 1882. Edward grew to manhood in Michigan, and received a good common school education. He was twice married. First, in November, 1848, to Levina Bruce, a native of Ohio.

He immigrated to Dane county, Wisconsin, where his wife died in 1856. By his first marriage he had three children—Mary, William and Charles. For his second wife, he married Jane McQuivey, in July, 1857. She was a native of Vermont. In July, 1857, he came to Mower county to look at the country, and, being well pleased, took a claim and returned to Wisconsin. In the fall of 1858 he returned to his claim, and the following July his family came on. He met them at McGregor, Iowa, with an ox team. His claim was in the south half of section 21. His second wife died November 2, 1864. By his last marriage he had four children—Edson, Judson, George W. and Elbra J. Mr. Bassett is a member of the Baptist Church. He always took an active part in township and county matters, and held township offices. In 1884 he still owned his homestead, but stopping temporarily at Dundas, in Rice county.

Edson Bassett a son of Edward Bassett, an old resident of Udolpho township, was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, September 9, 1858. He came with his parents to Mower county, growing to manhood in Udolpho township, receiving a common school education. He was married November 22 1881, to Mary Adeline Blythe. She was born in Steele county, Minnesota, February 23, 1862. They have two children—William A. and Richard H.

John Tuckerson settled in section 30, in 1858. His first residence was a small log shanty, covered with prairie sod. After living in this building about eight years, he erected a more commodious log house, which he now occupies. Mr. Tuckerson is a native

of Norway, where he was born April 10, 1813. He lived with his parents, working on the farm, which he followed until 1857, when he sold and left his native country for America. He landed at Quebec, after a voyage of four weeks. He came West, to Dane county, Wisconsin, where he worked as a farm hand one year, when he came with ox teams to Mower county, and settled in Udolpho township, where he still resides. The first crop raised by Mr. Tuckerson, after coming to the county, was hauled by him to Winona, at that time the nearest shipping point. Mr. Tuckerson was married to Isabel Ingebright in June, 1844. She is a native of Norway. Their children are Torkle, Nels, John, Knute, Albert, Martha, Maria, Bertha. Mr. Tuckerson and family are members of Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. He is a Republican in politics.

Those who came to the township later and have been prominent in township affairs are: Peter A. Peterson, Orlando C. LaBar. (For biographical sketches see representative chapter.)

Peter Larson came to Mower county in 1861, and settled on the northwest quarter of section 29. He made it his home until the fall of 1879, when he was killed by his team running away, attached to a plow with a rolling coulter, which ran over and cutting him nearly in two, which caused his death in about one hour. He left a wife and eleven children to mourn his sudden death. The family still occupy the farm.

Benjamin M. Carll was born in Lyons, Wayne county, New York, February 15, 1840, where he received a common school education. September 10, 1861, he enlisted

in Company, C, Eighth New York Cavalry, serving until December 8, 1864, when he was discharged by reason of the expiration of term of service. He was in the Army of the Potomac, and participated in many of the battles in that region. On receiving his discharge he returned to New York, and in December he came to Mower county, where his parents had preceded him the year before. He was married February 22, 1870, to Mary C. Rhoades. She was born in Chautauqua county, New York, September 11, 1848. In the fall of 1874 he bought and moved to his present farm in section 12, at which time it was wild prairie. His farm now contains 120 acres.

Mr. Carll is a member of Henry Rogers Post No. 11, G. A. R., at Brownsdale. Mr. and Mrs. Carll have three children, Roy M., Freddie W. and Ethel M.

N. N. Hagna, an early settler of Mower county, is a native of Norway; was born March 20, 1833. He grew to manhood in his native country. In 1862 he came to America; after a voyage of eight weeks, landed at Quebec, where he was taken sick with typhoid fever, and after remaining two months in quarantine, went to Clayton county, Iowa, where he found employment, remaining two years. In 1864 he came to Mower county and settled on the west half of the northeast quarter of section 8, town of Udolpho. He erected a log house 14x16, covered with sod. He lived in this house for several years. In 1870 he bought the southwest quarter of section 4, which he improved, and in 1876 built a frame house, veneered with brick, 19x29, 14 feet high, with an addition 17x19, 14 feet high, making

a good substantial and handsome farm house. He also built a large barn and granary, and he has since erected a barn 40x70, 20 feet high. His parents occupy a small house on the farm. Mr. Hagna now owns 485 acres of land. He devotes his time to raising grain and stock. Mr. Hagna has a nice herd of Short Horns. He has held the office of supervisor and treasurer of school district No. 49.

Burr Maxwell, a native of Cortland county, New York, was born May 17, 1836. He is the son of Lyman and Electa (Skeel) Maxwell. He moved with his parents in 1852 to Wisconsin; from there to Winona, Minnesota, where the mother died. The father is still a resident of Minnesota. Burr, of whom we write, received an academic education, at McGrawville, New York. He was married in Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1861, to Jennette C. Campbell. She is a native of Canada, born in 1835. Mr. Maxwell enlisted in the 4th Wisconsin Horse Battery, a volunteer battery. Mr. Maxwell was appointed Corporal, promoted to Sergeant, then to second and first lieutenant, and was in charge of the battery when it was mustered out. This battery was in Virginia, under Gen. Butler; was also in command of Fortress Monroe, when the engagement between the Monitor and Merrimac took place, and participated in most of the battles of the Eighteenth Army Corps. Mr. Maxwell received two wounds in a skirmish. He had four brothers in the service. When he was discharged in 1865, he returned to his family in Wisconsin. In the spring of 1867 he came to Mower county, and settled on section 23. In politics he is a Republican; is and has been a justice of

the peace, and member of the township board. He has been assessor nine terms. Mr. Maxwell is a member of Henry Rogers' Post, No. 11, G. A. R., Brownsdale; also a member of Lansing Lodge, No. 72, A. F. and A. M. Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell have four children, Kitty J., Myra J., Allie, Daisy.

Robert Lee was born near Lafayette, Indiana, November 8, 1849. He is a son of Esrom and Mary (Moore) Lee. The father a native of Kentucky, his father being one of the early settlers of that State. The mother was a native of Canada, came with her parents to Indiana, where she was married. The family moved to Iriquois county about 1857. In August, 1882, they removed to Calhoun county, Iowa, where they still reside. They had a family of three children, Robert being the second. He grew to manhood in Illinois, reared on the farm and received a common school education. Previous to coming to Minnesota Mr. Lee was engaged in milling. In the fall of 1868 Mr. Lee came to Mower county and stopped in Lansing township about two years, when he went to Todd county, remaining about one year, when he returned to Mower county and worked as a farm hand among the farmers of Udolpho township until 1875, when he bought the farm on which he now resides in section 18, which now contains 320 acres. Mr. Lee was married April 2, 1875, to Nancy Richardson, a daughter of Thomas Richardson, an old settler of the township, where she was born, June 10, 1855, and has the honor of being the first white child born in the township. Mr. Lee, in politics, on national and state affairs, votes with the Republican party, but on

local affairs votes for the best man. He is a member of the present township board. Mr. and Mrs. Lee are blessed with three children, Alice, Martha J., Daniel.

Nels K. Goodwin, a native of Norway, was born June 18, 1848. In 1866 he left his native land for America, landing at Montreal, Canada, and went directly to Calmer, Iowa, where he remained a short time. In 1870 he came to Mower county and settled in the town of Adams, and engaged in farming. In 1872 he came to the town of Udolpho, and settled on the east half of section 29, which he purchased of Barnard & Cooper, on which he built a good house, where he still lives. He was married June 8, 1870, to Miss Sarah Thompson. This union has been blessed with seven children—Martha M., Knute, Carl, Sally, Theodore, Julia, Nels. Mr. Goodwin was director of his school district for three years. He is a member of Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. In politics he is a Republican.

Edwin Richards, a native of Vermont, was born August 8, 1835. When two years old his parents moved to Clinton county, New York, where they lived about eight years, when they emigrated to Dodge county, Wisconsin, where he received a limited education in the common schools. He then came to Olmsted county, Minnesota, and in 1862 was married to Almira V. Kelley, a native of New Hampshire, born May 27, 1845. They came to Mower county and settled on section 13, in 1873. In politics he is a Republican, but believes a reform is necessary to the safety of the government. He is chairman of the present board of supervisors.

Mr. and Mrs. Richards have four children, Nellie W., Ida M., Emma J., Edwin O.

Mr. Richards was chairman of the board of Westfield, Dodge county, and assisted in settling the bounties of that township, which had been issued by the township in connection with what is now Ripley. At the time for issuing the bounty orders they were under one organization.

Ingval Ingoalson was born in Norway, November 15, 1849. He remained at home attending school and assisting his parents on their farm until 1874, when he came to America, and landed at New York, after a voyage of ten days. He left immediately for Mower county, Minnesota, and settled in the town of Udolpho, in section 16, where he erected a frame house, 16x16, 12 feet high, with a kitchen, 12x16, 10 feet high. The subject of our sketch was married in November, 1872, to Miss Betsey Olson. They are the parents of nine children—Gertrude, Julia, Annie, Olena, Carl, Ole, Inger, Nels and Albert (twins). Mr. Ingoalson is a member of the Lutheran Church at Blooming Prairie.

Syver Ingoalson is a native of Norway, and came to America in May, 1869, landing at New York City, after which he came to Decorah, Iowa, where he remained eight years. In 1876 he came to Mower county, and settled in section 16. His first house was built of logs, 14x16, 12 feet high. He was married to Miss Tora Halvorson, November 14, 1875. She is a native of Norway, and came to this country in 1869. They have three children—Henry, Gustave and Carl. Mr. Ingoalson has been director of school district 49 for three years and was

also overseer of the public highway for three years. He is a member of the Blooming Prairie Lutheran Church, and in politics works with the Republican party.

F. A. Carll settled on section 34, in 1865, on the farm he purchased of Milton McCall, at which time there was a small log house on the farm, in which he lived about five years, when he built a commodious frame residence in which he still lives. His farm is also well supplied with barns and outbuildings for his stock. He is largely engaged in stock and grain raising. Mr. Carll was married in May, 1840, to Miss Almira Crouch, a native of New York. She died in September, 1854, aged 36 years, leaving four children. He was married to Henrietta Rhoades January 3, 1862. She is a native of New York. They have one child. Mr. Carll is a native of Maine, born in May, 1814. In 1820 his parents moved to Wayne county, New York, remaining about five years, when they removed to Michigan. He lived with his parents until manhood, attending the common schools. At the age of nineteen went to learn the carpenter's trade, which trade he followed until 1864, when he engaged in farming. Previous to this he was engaged as collecting agent for A. Rice, manufacturer of fanning mills, which position he held for ten years, traveling through the states of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New York, New Jersey and Canada. Since coming to the township Mr. Carll has been prominent in township affairs. In politics he is a Democrat, and has held local offices.

PRESENT OFFICERS.

Supervisors—Edwin Richards, Chairman ; Bennett Christianson, Robert Lee.

Clerk—Carlos Manchester.

Assessor—Burr Maxwell.

Justice of the Peace—Burr Waxwell.

Udolpho township was named at the first town meeting by Colonel Henry C. Rogers, the circumstances of which were as follows: The voters of the township were composed of several nationalities, each expressing themselves in their own language, no two agreeing, until the question of *name* came up when they were as far apart on this as on other things. It was finally left to Col. Rogers, who said call it "Udolpho," which was done. The name was suggested by reading a work entitled "The Mysteries of Udolpho."

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The first school in what is now Udolpho township, was a select school, kept by Miss Eliza A. Wilcox, in a part of her father's residence. It was a three months' term, in the winter of 1856-7. She had an attendance of about a dozen. Miss Wilcox also taught a term of district school in the summer of 1857, in the house of Thomas Richardson, in section 16. She had about 20 scholars. For her services Miss Wilcox received two dollars a week, and boarded around. She followed teaching in the township about three years, her last term being in 1860, in district number 21. Miss Wilcox was born in Canada, April 25, 1841. She received her education in the common schools. She also attended Rock River Female Seminary, at Rockford, Illinois. She married Silas Dutcher. They have two children, Ethel K., Ralph R. They now reside at Austin.

District No. 49. The first school was kept at the house of Thomas Richardson in the summer of 1857, by Eliza A. Wilcox.

The district was organized in 1859, and a log school house was built on section 16. Miss Wilcox was also the first teacher in this house. This house was used for school purposes until 1870, when it was replaced by a substantial frame building 24x30, located on the southeast corner of section 8. Miss Rosa Carey had the honor of teaching the first school in this building. The school, during the summer of 1884, was taught by Miss Allie Neller.

District No. 50. The first school in this district was a summer term in 1857, by Percilla Miller. The school was held in a log house erected for the purpose by the neighbors. It was built of logs, 18x20, the roof covered with sods. The building was located in the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of section 26. This building was used for school purposes until the spring of 1866, when it was replaced by the present building, which was built during the fall of 1865, on the southwest corner of section 24. The building is a brick 21x32, and cost \$1,200. The first school in this house was by Macelia F. Stimson, with an attendance of about 30. The summer term in 1884, was taught by Hattie Dearborn, of Austin, with an attendance of 28.

District No. 57 was organized October 9, 1869. The first school held was in the winter of 1869-70 at the house of John Tuckerson, in section 30, Mr. Carlos Manchester being the teacher. School was held in this house until 1872, when a small school house was erected on the southeast corner of section 19. Mr. Manchester was also the first teacher in this house. Ole Hougan is the present teacher.

District No. 60 was organized in the winter of 1868 or 1869. A school house was erected the next spring on the southeast corner of section 2. The building is a frame, 16x20, and cost \$400. The lumber was hauled by teams from Red Wing. The first school after the completion of the building, was a summer term, kept by Mrs. Mary Thurber, the wife of E. Thurber, at that time living in section 10. They are now residents of Spring Valley, Fillmore county. The present school is under the management of Nellie Richards, a daughter of E. Richards, a prominent farmer of the township. The school house was afterwards moved to the northeast corner of section 11, where it now stands.

District No. 76 was organized in 1869. The first school was held at the house of S. H. Smith, in section 33, the teacher being Hattie L. Sanford, a sister of Mrs. S. H. Smith. School was held at the house of Mr. Smith until 1876, when a new frame house, 20x30, was built, at a cost of \$700. Miss Hattie Ricker was the first to teach in this house.

District No. 111 is a joint district which includes territory in Freeborn county. The district was organized by act of the legislature in their session of 1881-82. The school house is located just over the line in Freeborn county. The first school was kept by Miss Myra Maxwell, a summer term, in 1882. Miss Emma Washburn is the present teacher.

Norwegian school. The Norwegian settlers of this township have six months school in which their language is taught. The settlement is divided into six districts. They have six months of school during the year,

one month in each district. These schools are each taught in their turn by one teacher.

#### RELIGIOUS.

The first religious services held in the township were held on the east side of the Cedar river, at neighboring houses, and at the old log school house, until after the new school house was built, when Rev. George Stokes, an ordained minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, organized a class. He was a resident of the township, an Englishman by birth. He lived in the township until about 1877, when he went to Utah territory. Rev. Mr. Stokes was the first to hold services in a number of towns in the county. He was well liked by those who knew him.

Free Will Baptist church, was organized in the spring of 1858, by Rev. Hiram Miller from Chautauqua county, New York. He remained here a short time, when he went to Dodge county, and afterwards to Olmsted county. Meetings were held at the house of O. D. Rhoades in section 22. The members of this organization were Benjamin Vaughan and wife, Charles Hunter and wife, Mr. John Dunton and wife, Mrs. O. D. Rhoades. Meetings were held once in two weeks for about a year, when the organization was removed to Lansing.

Red Rock Grove Lutheran Church. The first services of this denomination were held at the house of Gutram Olson in section 19, in the summer of 1857, by Rev. C. L. Clauson. An organization was effected in 1859, by Elder Clauson, with a membership of fifteen families. Mr. Clauson remained with the church a short time, when he was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Frederickson, and he by

Rev. E. P. Esp, who remained about eight years, when he was succeeded by Rev. Mr. C. L. Clauson, who again took charge of the church. Owing to Elder Clauson being old and feeble he is assisted in the church by Rev. S. O. Strand.

A church building was erected in the summer of 1869, on the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of section 19. The building was a frame 30x45, and cost about \$3,000. The membership had so increased that in 1877 the church building was too small to accommodate the members. That year an addition 20x25 was built onto the old building, which not only makes plenty of room, but adds much to the convenience and and comfort of its members. The church has increased to eighty families. The church is in a prosperous condition.

#### FIRST MARRIAGE.

The first couple to be married in the township was Ed. Sperry and Polly E. Andrews. They were married about 1857. They did not love as they should, and only lived together a short time, when Sperry went away. The last known of him he was living in Nobles county, Minnesota.

#### FIRST BIRTH

Was Nancy, third daughter of Thomas R. Richardson. She was born June 10, 1855. She is the wife of Mr. Robert Lee, and lives in the township.

#### FIRST DEATH

Was the wife of a Mr. Caton, an old settler of the township. She died in the winter of 1856. She was buried in section 23.

The next death in the township was a brother of Ed. Sperry, who had traded guns

with an immigrant. He had it laid away in the bottom of his wagon. While pulling it out to show his brother, it was accidentally discharged, the shot taking effect in his thigh, which cut an artery. Not being able to stop the flow of blood, he soon bled to death.

The first breaking was done by Thomas R. Richardson in 1855. On this breaking he raised about three hundred bushels of corn, and some potatoes. He sold what corn he had to spare, measuring it in a common tin boiler; for each measure, he received one dollar. He was not so fortunate with his potatoes. When he supposed they were large enough to use, on going for a mess found that they had been dug by Indian squaws. Mr. Richardson complained to the chief, who said they (the squaws) had done wrong. Later in the fall Mr. Richardson was sent for by the chief to visit his camp. On his arrival was shown fourteen elk, and was told to take his winter's meat, in payment for his potatoes, which offer Mr. Richardson was glad to accept.

Udolpho postoffice was established about 1874, with Samuel Dunnell, brother of Hon. Mark H. Dunnell, as postmaster. The office was kept at his house in section 2. Mr. Dunnell remained in the town until 1876, when he went to Blooming Prairie, in Steele county. He now lives in Ortonville, Big Stone, Minnesota. He was succeeded by Philip Setzer, as postmaster, and the office moved to his house in section 1. It remained here a short time, when Joseph Reynolds received the appointment of postmaster and the office removed to his house in section 1. It was again removed and Gideon

Stoddard appointed postmaster. The office was kept at his house in section 2. Mrs. Malina S. Carll is the present post mistress, and the office kept at her house in section 2.

The first mails were received twice a week, via Brownsdale, Waltham postoffice, and this office to Blooming Prairie. The office is now supplied every Saturday from Blooming Prairie.

#### MADISON.

The village of Madison was located on the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 21. Below is given a sketch of Madison, written by Mr. E. Bassett:

"The village of Madison was platted by Warren Brown, a former resident of Baraboo, Wisconsin, in the fall of 1856 or spring of 1857. He built a fair-sized building and put in some \$1,500 worth of goods. He did a fair business for nearly a year. In that time he built a house to live in, established a postoffice and was made postmaster. He sold several lots and blocks, but finally branched out too far and lost all, after which he went farther west. During this time four men, under the firm name of Moody & Co., built a large house, 28x40, with an addition 14 feet wide, the whole length of one side. They used the building for a hotel. They did a livery business for a short time. They had the postoffice re-established, and boarded a large lot of railroad hands. They were finally left without pay, which left them in a hard spot. The company broke up. The town a failure, Moody took his family and went back to Massachusetts. Others left in various ways. My place lying alongside of the town plat, the postoffice was thrown into my hands. I kept it for twelve years

and a half. When the railway was built, the company would make no arrangements to stop. I became wearied with going to Lansing to supply the office, and threw it up. The vacated buildings went to rack and ruin and were sold for any sum that was possible to get. The buildings were all taken away and the village plat converted into a wheat field. This is my hasty record of the main facts to the best of my memory.

#### BLACKSMITH.

"Samuel Hatley came to Madison in the spring of 1857, from Indiana. He built a log house for a residence, also a shop, in which he worked at blacksmithing. He worked at his trade here about three years, when he removed to Lansing, where he remained until about 1872, when he went to the northern part of the State, where he died."

#### FROZEN TO DEATH.

This incident was related by John L. Neller:

Mr. George Chapman came to Minnesota in the summer of 1856 and settled in the town of Udolpho, residing with his father-in-law on section 16 for about two years, when he purchased the east half of the southeast quarter of section 8, of that township. On April 14, 1859, he went up the Red Cedar river, which at that season was very high. He went for the purpose of killing ducks. He crossed the river at or near Mr. Iverson's house, on foot logs, there being no wagon bridges at that early day. While coming down the stream on the east side, he was overtaken by a terrific snow storm of a severity since unknown in this latitude. As he did not reach home that day a party of

his neighbors went out in search of him. I was among the number. We found his dead body where least expected, about fifty or sixty rods from his father-in-law's house, the river being between the house and the spot where he was found. His limbs were badly frozen, but his breast was still warm with his life's blood. He had eight ducks in his hunting pouch. We found where he had undertaken to build a fire by placing some dry weeds in the hollow of an old basswood stump and

discharging both barrels of his shot gun. But it had failed to ignite and he then placed the gun on one side of the stump and sat against the opposite side of the stump himself, as if for shelter and rest. It was the opinion of those who were knowing to the facts that he was not fully dead when first found, and that had proper care been exercised he might have been restored. He left a wife and small children in destitute circumstances.

## CHAPTER XXXV.

### WALTHAM TOWNSHIP.

This is one of the five townships in the northern tier of Mower county and comprises congressional township 104, range 17. It is bounded on the north by Dodge county, on the east by Sargeant township, on the south by Red Rock township, and on the west by Udolpho township. The north branch of Roberts Creek rises in section 24, and runs in a southwesterly direction, and enters Red Rock township from section 32. A small stream rises in section 19, flows nearly south and enters Udolpho from section 31. There is some timber found along Roberts creek, in the south part of the township. The township is mostly composed of a nice rolling prairie of a productive, dark loam, which is as well suited for agriculture as any part of Mower county.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first settler in Waltham township was Nels Johnson, a Norwegian, in the summer of 1855. His claim was the south half of the southwest quarter of section 22. He built a log house, 16x16, which was built on the north bank of Roberts creek. It had a board roof, the lumber of which was sawed at the Brownsdale saw mill. Mr. Johnson deeded his land and remained in the township until the spring of 1863, when he sold to Mr. George Johnson, and went to Udolpho township, and from there to the mountains.

George Johnson was from Marquette county, Wisconsin; was formerly from Leicestershire, England. He lived in the township until his death in 1872. The family still live in the township.

Barney Develin, an Irishman, settled in section 28, in the summer of 1856. He lived in the town but a few years when he went to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

A Mr. Bemis, a shoemaker, settled in section 34 in 1856. He sold out to Eri Colby.

Charles F. Hardy was an early settler of the township, remaining only a short time, when he moved to Red Rock, from whence he came.

Sylvester A. Dennis, a settler of 1857, was born February 19, 1816, near Columbus, Ohio. His parents moved to Vermillion county, Indiana, when he was about fifteen years of age. He was married when about twenty years old, to Catherine Mathews. She was born in 1818, in Ohio. In 1849 the family emigrated to Allamakee county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming until May, 1857, when he came to Mower county. He settled first in Red Rock township, remaining in the township eight years, when he traded farms with a Mr. Leisure, of Waltham township, to which town he removed, settling on this farm in section 19. He lived on this farm until his death, December 17, 1867. Mrs. Dennis died in Allamakee county, in December 1850. By this marriage he had six children, four of whom grew to man and womanhood. Mr. Dennis again married in 1852, to Rebecca Arnold. She was born in Virginia in 1834, by whom he had six children. She is now the wife of William Stewart.

Purdy Launsbury was born in Ulster county, New York, moved from there in 1836 to Hudson, Columbia county. His parents were natives of Ulster county. They were descendents of three brothers by that

name, who came from England and settled in Ulster county many years before the revolutionary war, in which several of their descendents participated. The family, generally, have been engaged in agricultural pursuits. Purdy Launsbury, of whom we write, was apprenticed when fourteen years of age to learn the tanner's and currier's trade, serving an apprenticeship of seven years, which business he followed during his stay in his native state. He was married about 1823 to Hester Towelleger. She was also a native of Ulster county, born in 1800. Her parents came to Ulster county before the revolution. In the spring of 1848 the family emigrated to Milwaukee and to Winnebago county, Wisconsin, where they engaged in farming. He remained here until November, 1864, when they again pulled up stakes and moved to Mower county, and settled in section 22, in Waltham township. Mr. and Mrs. Launsbury resided on this farm until their deaths—Mr. Launsbury November 29, 1880, and Mrs. Launsbury July 8, 1882. They had a family of twelve children, five of whom are now living, viz.: George A., a resident of Berlin, Green Lake county, Wisconsin; Alfred, of Waltham township, of whom mention is made elsewhere; James, of Waukesha county, Wisconsin; John, of Dakota; Ophelia T., married, and lives in Mankato, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Launsbury were members of the M. E. church. Mr. Launsbury helped organize the township. He was a Democrat and held the offices of justice of the peace and school district treasurer. He was well liked by his neighbors and friends.

Moses Boliou, a prominent citizen of Wal-

tham township, was born in Keesville, New York, June 12, 1842. He is a son of Jane and Polly (Juber) Boliou, natives of Canada, where they were married. They emigrated to New York State, where Moses was born. The family afterwards returned to Canada, where they lived a few years, when they returned to New York, and in 1851, came to Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, where the mother still resides. The father died there in June, 1878. They had a family of eight children; Moses, of whom we write, being the seventh. He grew to manhood in Fond du Lac county, receiving a common school education. In the fall of 1864 he came to Brownsdale, Mower county. The next spring he purchased the farm on which he now resides, in section 9, Waltham township. He was married May 25, 1869, to Anna Taylor. She was born in Glasgow, Scotland, January 25, 1851. She came to the United States with her parents in 1855, and settled at Brownsdale, where she was married. Her father froze to death, for account of which see Red Rock history. After their marriage they moved to their farm in Waltham township and engaged in farming. They remained here until the fall of 1877, when he removed to Brownsdale and engaged in the mercantile business in company with W. H. Lawrence, remaining in the business until 1879, when he sold his interest to Mr. Lawrence, and returned to his farm in Waltham. He resided on the farm until the fall of 1882, when he again removed to Brownsdale, remaining until the fall of 1883, when he returned to the farm, where he still resides.

In politics Mr. Boliou is a staunch Re-

publican, and has held local offices. He is also a member of Lafayette Lodge No. 11, A. F. and A. M., at Brownsdale. Mr. and Mrs. Boliou are parents of one child, George H. Mr. Boliou is one of the substantial farmers of his township, his farm containing 440 acres.

Alfred Launsbury, second son of Purdy Launsbury, was born in Ulster county, New York, February 11, 1829, where he grew to manhood and received a common school education. He served an apprenticeship of three years in learning the currier's and tanners trade, at Hudson, Columbia county, Wis., which he followed until 1848, when he came with his father's family to Winnebago county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming. He was married here, March 11, 1852, to Matilda Gifford. She was born in Canada, November 5, 1833. She is a daughter of Joshua and C. (Moore) Gifford, natives of Canada. They came to Washington county, Wisconsin, in 1840, where she lived until she was married. Mr. Launsbury removed to Berlin, Green Lake county, where he engaged with his brother George in the harness business, which he followed until the outbreak of the Rebellion. He enlisted September 4, 1861, in the Third Wisconsin battery, serving until 1864, when he received the appointment of military storekeeper in the quartermaster's department, remaining until the close of the war, after which he returned to his home in Wisconsin, and with his family moved to Mower county and settled in section 22, Waltham township, in 1822, in which township his father had settled the year previous (1864), where he still resides. Mr. and Mrs. Launsbury have had

five children, viz.: George W. (deceased), Anna A., Ida B., Adda J., Ella A. Mr. Launsbury is a staunch Republican, and has held local offices. The battery of which Mr. Launsbury was a member, was with the army of the Cumberland, and participated in the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Mount Washington, Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, at which they lost their battery and thirty-four men killed and wounded. He was also present at the battles of Missionary Ridge, Kenesaw Mountain and the taking of Atlanta. Mr. Launsbury received injuries while in the army from the effects of which he draws a pension. He is a member of Col. Henry Rogers Post, No. 11, G. A. R. He is also a member of Lafayette Lodge, No. 16, A. F. & A. M., at Brownsdale.

E. P. D. Kimble came to Mower county in 1866, and settled on section 5, in Waltham township. In 1880 he went to Brule county, Dakota, where his son had laid out the town which bears his name. He remained there until 1882, when he returned to his farm. He is engaged in raising blooded stock, Short Horns being his favorite breed. Mr. Kimble is a native of New Hampshire, born in the town of Walpoll, March 14, 1821. When he was 13 years of age he went to Reading, Massachusetts, where he grew to manhood, receiving in the meantime a common school education. He served an apprenticeship of seven years, learning the cabinet maker's trade, receiving for his services his board and clothes. He has been twice married, his first wife to whom he was married April 6, 1843, was Elizabeth A. Parker. She was born in Reading, Middlesex county, Massachusetts, in 1823. Three children blessed

this union, only one of whom is now living, Francis W., who is now Assistant Chief Engineer, of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company. Mrs. Kimble died in 1851. He was again married in 1852, to Edith Richardson. She was born in Middleton, Essex county, Massachusetts, in 1823. Three children were born to them, only two of whom are now living, Eva V., Edmund P. Eva is a graduate of the State Normal School at Winona. She is now married, and lives in Dakota. Edmund P. lives at Granite Falls, Minnesota. For some years before coming West, Mr. Kimble was engaged in agricultural pursuits in Middleton, Massachusetts, where he owned a farm.

B. T. Walker was born in Canandaigua, Ontario county, New York, October 4, 1843, where he grew to manhood, receiving a portion of his education at the common schools, and further advancing his studies by attending the Genesee Wesleyan College at Lima, Livingston county. He came to Mower county in April, 1866, and settled on section 30, Waltham township.

The subject of our sketch has been twice married. His first wife was Mercelia F. Stimson. They were married at Owatonna September 2, 1866. She died February 10, 1867. He was again married January 1, 1870, to Delia Rowley. By this union there are six children, John R., Seth T., Mercelia A., Delia E., Blanche D. and Grace L. Mrs. Walker is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at High Forest, Olmsted county. Mr. Walker was formerly a Democrat but is now a Greenbacker. He has held the office of county commissioner.

Isaac Dennis, a son of Sylvester A. Dennis,

was born in Highland township, Vermillion county, Indiana, June 7, 1838. He came with his family to Allamakee county, Iowa, in 1849, where he was married May 6, 1857, to Mary Brookshier. She was born in Kentucky, April 24, 1840. In October, 1869, he came to Mower county and settled on the old homestead of his father, where he has since lived. Mrs. Dennis died December 30, 1881. This union was blessed with thirteen children, nine of whom are now living. Three years passed and Mr. Dennis again entered the marriage state; was united in marriage May 29, 1884, to Miss Eliza Hart. She was born December 28, 1839. She was a native of Liverpool, England. Mr. Dennis is a member of the Free Methodist, and Mrs. Dennis of the Presbyterian church. The names of the children who are living, are William P., George A., Elmer E., Cora, Rosa C. B., Frank, Isaac N., Bertha P. and Judah C.

Charles Gage was born in Ontario county, New York, March 25, 1843. He is a son of Caleb and Mary (Brooks) Gage, the father a native of Wendell, New Hampshire. He went to Ontario county, New York, in 1810. The mother is a native of Cheshire, Connecticut. They were married in New York State. The father died in Ontario county, 1878, aged 87 years. The mother is still living there at the age of 77. They had a family of five children. Charles, of whom we write, is the youngest. He received an academic education. He enlisted as private August 22, 1862, in Company D, 126th New York Infantry. July 24, 1863, Mr. Gage was promoted to First Lieutenant, and June 23, 1864, was promoted to Captain of his com-

pany, which position he held until the close of the war. He was mustered out June 25, 1865. He participated with his regiment in many of the battles of the Potomac till the close of the war. He took part in the Grand Review at Washington. After his discharge he returned to his home in New York, remaining until September, when he received the appointment of clerk in the government land office at Sioux City, Iowa. He remained there until December 1869, when he gave up the clerkship and went to Chicago, Illinois, when he engaged as traveling agent for the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railway Company, remaining with them one year, after which he returned to New York State, remaining until June, 1871, when he came to Mower county, and purchased a farm in section 23 in Waltham township and engaged in farming.

He was married May 15, 1873, to Anna L. Launsbury. She was a native of Dodge county, Wisconsin, born May 15, 1855.

Mr. Gage is a Republican, and served as a member of his township board. He is now commander of Henry Rogers Post No. 11, G. A. R., of which post he was a charter member. He is also a member of Lafayette Lodge No. 116, A. F. & A. M., at Brownsdale.

Mr. Gage resided on his farm until the spring of 1884, when he rented and moved into Brownsdale, where he still lives. Mr. and Mrs. Gage have been blessed with three children, Rose B., George A. and Ward A. Mr. Gage is a man well liked by his neighbors and friends.

George Townsend was born in St. Lawrence county, New York. He grew to man-

hood in this county, and received a common school education. He was reared to agricultural pursuits, which business he has since followed. He was married in Jefferson county, September 16, 1849, to Frances M. Jewett. She was born in Jefferson county, New York, January 25, 1834. In October, 1854, he emigrated to Wisconsin, and settled in Columbia county, remaining until the fall of 1875, when he came to Mower county and settled in section 33, Waltham township, where he still resides. His farm contains eighty acres, all under cultivation. They have had two children, both of whom are dead. Mr. Townsend's father was a native of Herkimer county, New York, and his mother of Vermont. His father is still living in Wisconsin. His mother died in 1830. His father was three times married, but is now a widower. He had two children by his first marriage, and four by the second marriage.

Others who have been prominent in township affairs are John Hoy, Eri Colby, W. Hall, J. J. Hunt, A. McGowan, C. E. Nichols, F. J. Hill, A. Colby, J. Muncy, G. R. Church.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The township of Walton was organized in June, 1866. The first election was held on the 4th of that month at the house of A. J. Burbank, known as the "Waltham Hotel." The call for a meeting was signed by Alanson Beach, Charles F. Hardy, William E. Hardy, County Commissioners. At this meeting H. L. Collins was Chairman, A. J. Burbank, Clerk, and J. W. George, Henry Edwards and John Steen were elected

Judges. There were sixteen votes cast and the following officers elected, viz.:

Supervisors—H. L. Collins, Chairman, H. Edwards, A. Launsbury.

Clerk—J. W. George.

Treasurer—E. Colby.

Assessor—Moses Boliou.

Justices—P. Launsbury, H. L. Collins.

Constable—J. Steen.

The present officers are:

Supervisors—F. J. Hill, Chairman, George Johnson, M. F. Matter.

Clerk—J. J. Hunt.

Assessor—G. C. Clark.

Treasurer—N. T. Johnson.

Justices of the Peace—William Baker and Robert Hicks.

Constable—George W. Hunt.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

District No. 58 was organized in 1866. There was a school building erected on the northwest corner of section 15. It is a frame 26x36, and cost \$3,000. The first school was a winter term in 1868, Dorathy (Johnson) Walker wielded the sprout. The present school (summer term) is taught by Ettie Rockwell, of Red Rock township, with an attendance of 23.

School District No. 61 was organized July 28, 1866, at which time a school meeting was held at the house of A. E. Meigs, in section 28. The first school was a summer term of three months, in 1867, which was under the supervision of Miss Emma Hoy, a daughter of J. Hoy, a resident of the township. There was an attendance of eighteen. This school was held in the school house which had just been completed at a cost of \$1,500; it was a frame, 20x24, with wing 7x9. The building

is still used for school purposes. It is located on the northwest corner of section 27, surrounded by a beautiful grove of oaks. The summer term of 1884 was kept by Miss Helen E. Stoddard, with an attendance of about twenty-four.

District No. 89. This district was organized in the fall of 1874. A frame building 20x30 was erected for school purposes during the summer of 1875, at a cost of \$1,200. The first school was a three months term in the winter of 1875-76, by J. L. Dole. He was at that time living in the township in section 10. His daughter, Addie, had the contract for teaching the school. Shortly after its commencement she was taken sick. Rather than have the school close Mr. Dole was permitted to fill her place in the school until she should be well enough to again take charge. As she got no better he remained in charge till its close. She married R. Hicks, and is a resident of Waltham township. Mr. Dole is a resident of Red Rock township. At this term of school there was an attendance of about twelve. The school house was built on the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of section 35, and is still used for school purposes. The summer term in 1884 was taught by Minnie Hunt, daughter of J. J. Hunt, a resident of the township, with an attendance of about eight.

School District No. 93 was organized in the fall of 1875. The next spring (1876) a school house was built, located on the northeast corner of section 30. It is a frame 20x30. The cost of the building, furnished, was \$925. The first school was a winter term of four months, kept by Miss Bell Leighton of Udolpho township, with an at-

tendance of about 4. The summer term was taught by Claudia Campbell of Brownsdale, with an attendance of about twenty.

School district No. 107. The first school in this district, was kept by a sister of Mrs. Cruther, in the school house, which had just been completed, 1880. The building is a frame, 24x36, and cost \$1,200, and is located in section 13. The present teacher is Miss Satergreen.

District No. 110 was organized in 1881. The first school was kept that summer by Miss Flossie Brown. The school house is a frame, 18x30. The present teacher is Addie Dole. The house is located in the northwest part of the township.

#### RELIGIOUS.

The first religious services in the township were held in the hall of the Waltham House, in January, 1866, by Rev. George Stokes, of Udolpho township. He held services once in two weeks.

St. Michael's German Lutheran Church. There was no regular church organization in the township until the organization of this church, June 23, 1873. The first of this denomination to settle in the township was Michael Matter, in May, 1869. He came from Waukesha county, Wisconsin; was formerly from Germany. The first services were held at the house of Mr. Matter, in section 20, by Rev. Mr. Wier, from Lake Elmo, Washington county. At this meeting Michael F., a son of Michael Matter, was married. On the organization of the church Mr. Matter gave sixty acres of land, reserving the use of the same for five years, after which time it became the property of the

church. A church building was erected on this land (north half of southwest quarter of section 20) gratuitously by the members in the summer of 1874. Present membership about twenty families. The present minister, Rev. Hans Joachim Haack, is a native of Dithmarschen, Denmark, born September 24, 1840. He attended the Latin school at Burg, and in 1863 went to Hanover, where he studied theology at the Mission House of Hermannsburg for about six years, graduating in 1869. In August of that year, he came to Watertown, Wisconsin, and entered the Northwestern University of the Lutheran Wisconsin Synod, graduating the same fall. He entered the ministry, and was assigned to two congregations in Brown county, Wisconsin, and afterwards had charge of the church until the fall of 1881, in Wisconsin, when he came to Mower county, and took charge of the Lutheran Church, in Waltham township, where he still resides. He was married March 3, 1874, to Louise Bleick. She was born in Autagamie county, Wisconsin, June 27, 1857, by whom he has two children, Caecilia S., born April 7, 1875, and Louisa A. M., born February 2, 1878. Mr. Haack is an M. D., graduating from the Hahnemann Medical College, of Missouri, at St. Louis, also at the Old Medical School of Missouri. While in Wisconsin he taught two terms in the district schools, and he is now a member of the Buffalo, New York Synod.

The German Evangelical Church. The first services of this denomination were held at the house of Fred Beneke, in section 39, about 1870, by Rev. Lewis Fomwold, from Rochester, Olmsted county. There was never an organization effected of this de-

nomination, but meetings have been generally held about once a month. These services are usually held at the house of Mr. Beneke, but occasionally at the school house in district No. 93.

German Church was organized in the summer of 1880. The first services of this church were held at the house of W. Meyer, in section 29, in the fall of 1872, by Rev. Frank Gohl, from Clairmont, Dodge county. This church has a membership of about twenty families. A church building was erected in the summer of 1880, a frame building 20x30, with steeple, cost \$500. There is usually service held once a week.

#### WALTHAM CEMETERY.

Waltham cemetery was organized under the laws of the State, December 17, 1867. It is located on the southwest corner of section 22, and the northwest corner of section 27, and contains one acre. The ground was purchased by the town and presented to the association for cemetery purposes.

#### WALTHAM VILLAGE.

The village of Waltham was platted by J. C. Mason, of Massachusetts, who owned large tracts of land in the township. He started a colony in 1864 and 1865, and through his representations induced several families from Massachusetts to settle in the township. The townsite was located in the northwest quarter of section 15. It was laid out in lots of an acre each, as an inducement to settlers. Any one who would build a house was given one acre on which to build. Some of these lots, it is said, are yet separately assessed.

## WALTHAM HOUSE.

Mr. Mason built a commodious hotel, which was called the "Waltham House." The building was frame, and cost \$4,800. It was erected under the management of Col. A. J. Burbank, from Illinois. He was in the employ of Mr. Mason, as well as landlord, and, it is said, spent his money, put on style and lived in fine shape. The Waltham postoffice was first kept in this building, with the Colonel as postmaster. In the hall of this building were held the first religious services in the township.

The first marriage ceremony was also performed here. The hall was also noted for its dances. The hotel did a big business until the completion of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway, when the travel changed, when the hotel was closed as a public house, after being run as such for only four years. For several years it was used for renters and transient people in the neighborhood, until the fall of 1883, when the building was sold to Moses Bolou, who had it torn down and removed.

## WALTHAM POSTOFFICE.

Waltham postoffice was established in 1866, with Col. A. J. Burbank as postmaster. The office was kept at the Waltham House, of which he was landlord. The mail rout from Brownsdale to Kasson in Dodge county, passed by this office, from which route it was supplied. The office remained here until

1868, when Moses Boliou was appointed postmaster, and the office removed to his house in section 9, where it remained until 1872, when it was discontinued.

## FIRST MARRIAGE.

The first couple said to have been married in Waltham township was James Perry and Arvilla Brown, of Red Rock township. The ceremony was performed by H. L. Collins, a justice of the peace. The notable event took place in the hall of the Waltham House, in November, 1869.

## FIRST BIRTH.

The first white child born in Waltham township was John, a son of Nels Johnson, the first settler in the township. He was born in about 1854.

## FIRST DEATH.

The first death was Elizabeth H., a daughter of George and Dorathy Johnson. She died October 1, 1867.

## KILLED BY LIGHTNING.

While fighting prairie fire on the night of October 8, 1871, Ira P. Launsbury, a son of Purdy Launsbury, was struck by lightning and killed, his dead body being found on the prairie the next morning. It is said that it rained very hard. The most singular thing about it was that only one very loud clap of thunder was heard, that which killed Mr. Launsbury.

## CHAPTER XXXVI.

## WINDOM TOWNSHIP.

The township bearing the name "Windom" embraces the territory comprised in Congressional township 102 north, range 17 west of the fifth principal meridian. It is bounded on the north by Red Rock township, on the east by Marshall, on the south by Nevada, and on the west by Austin. The surface of this township is quite level, and there are but few acres of waste land. Originally about three-fourths of the surface of the township was clear prairie land, while on a portion of the balance good timber was growing. The largest body of timber was located on sections 13, 24 and 25. The soil is a rich, dark loam, in some places mixed slightly with sand and in other places with clay. The soil is very productive and excellently adapted to the raising of all cereals and grasses common to this latitude.

The township is drained by Rose creek and its tributaries and the tributaries of Dobbins creek. Rose creek enters this township from Marshall by way of section 1 and flows to section 12; from thence it retraces its course and passes back to Marshall town-

ship. On section 13 it again enters this township, passing across that section; then through the northwest corner of section 24 to 23; thence through 26; the northwest quarter of 35; thence across 34, 33, 32 and the northeast corner of 31 to section 30, from which it leaves this township to enter Austin township. The drainage from the northern part of the township is into Dobbins creek.

In early days, and in fact until within a few years, wheat was the chief product; as much as 30 bushels to the acre being frequently threshed. The first wheat raised here was marketed at McGregor, Iowa, and Winona, and many of the settlers used to make the trip with ox teams. It was generally considered an eight to ten days' trip, to McGregor, and six to eight to Winona; but in bad going it would take longer. In the summer season it was customary to take provisions along and camp on the way. During the winter they would put up at hotels which were stationed at different places along the road. Some of these tav-

erns were built of logs and not very large, and were oftentimes crowded with guests, but like a stage coach, there was always room for one more. At the present day wheat is not as profitable as it used to be, and much less of it is sown. Barley, oats, corn, potatoes, timothy and clover are raised in large quantities. The dairy and stock raising interests are now receiving considerable attention and many good hores and cattle are raised in this township.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement in Windom township was made in 1855 by Sylvester Davis, who came here in the spring of that year and camped on section 20. But at that time he heard—as you can to-day hear—of better prospects farther on, and he “pulled up stakes” and went west. In August, of that year, however, he returned and settled on the southwest quarter of section 20, where he erected the first dwelling in the township. It was a frame house, which he afterwards enlarged by building an addition. This he opened as a tavern, it being on the road from the Little Cedar to Owatonna—a road much traveled in those days—and his house was frequently crowded with guests. Davis was a “regular native” frontiersman, and was visibly inclined to be rough and uncouth. In 1857 he sold and returned to Iowa, where he lived a short time, then moved to Rice county, Minnesota, where he died a few years later. He sold his place in this township to Nelson Cook, a Congregational minister, and while he lived there the place was named “Saint’s Rest,” by which name some still know it. From Rev. Cook the chain of title to the place passed through Francis

Bronson, Elias Branch, John Merrill, and, finally, to William V. Little, the present proprietor.

Elon C. Benton was the second settler in the township. He was a native of New York State; but came here from Iowa, where he had lived for a short time. In March, —, he claimed the south half of the southwest quarter of section 7, in Windom, and also the southeast of the southeast quarter of section 12, in Austin township. His mother accompanied him. He erected a log house on section 7 and lived there until 1861, when he sold and moved to Nebraska, settling near Omaha. He lived there for a time then removed to Smith county, Kansas. In 1883 he removed to Oregon. He held various offices of trust in Windom; was justice of the peace in Nebraska and Kansas, and in the latter state held the office of judge of probate.

In March, 1856, William T. Mandeville, Alfred Richardson, Hugh Mills and Pliny Conkey came. They were all natives of the State of New York, and had lived near West Union, Iowa, for a time. Mr. Mandeville claimed the southeast quarter of section 30; Conkey the southeast of 19; Mills the northwest of 29, and Richardson the north half of the southeast quarter of section 20. They all returned to Iowa except Mills, who remained to look after the claims. In May of that year they came back, and with them came Horatio Marsh, George N. Conkey and Charles Zwick. Mandeville located upon his claim. He now lives in Austin. Conkey was a single man and made his home with his brother George N. for two years, and then went to Iowa. About a year later he re-

turned and in 1862 he enlisted in Company C, Ninth Minnesota Infantry. He was captured at the battle of Guntown, Mississippi, and died in a rebel prison.

Mr. Mills died in June, 1884, and his family at this writing still occupy the homestead.

Richardson improved his land and lived there until 1870, when he moved to Austin, where he resided for a number of years. In 1884 he was living in Dakota.

George N. Conkey entered the northeast quarter of section 30. In 1844 he was living on the southeast quarter of section 19.

Marsh entered the south half of the southeast quarter of section 20. In 1878 he sold and moved to Austin, where, in 1884, he was still living.

Hugh D. Mills was born in Delaware county, New York, February 12, 1831. When he was but two years of age his parents moved to St. Lawrence county, and settled in the town of Macomb, where his father bought a tract of land with small improvements on it, and there the subject of our sketch grew to manhood. He assisted his father in clearing a farm on which he worked, except in the winter season, when he attended the district school. At seventeen years of age he bought his time of his father for \$150, and went out to work. He soon earned the money and paid for his time. When he was nineteen years of age his sister died, and at the request of his mother he returned home and remained until 1851. In September of that year he borrowed \$12 from his cousin and started west to seek a home. He first stopped in Defiance county, Ohio, and engaged farming at \$12 per month. He remained in Defiance county

until the spring of 1853, then went to Iowa, and located in Fayette county, and engaged in farming, except the winter of 1855-6, when he was employed as clerk in a hotel, at West Union. In December, 1855, he visited Mower county, looking for a desirable location. He did not make a selection, but returned to West Union. In March, 1856, he returned to Mower county, entered land as before stated. He had \$60 in cash when he came to Mower county. He immediately engaged at different kinds of work. He was a single man at the time, and boarded at different places. He was married in March 1860, to Abba A. Sargent, a native of Vermont, born in the town of Marshfield, Washington county. At the time of his marriage he settled on section 16, town of Lansing. He lived there four years, then sold and moved to the place which his family now occupy in section 29. He bought a log house near Austin, and moved it to the place and occupied it until 1882, when he built a frame house, which he veneered with brick, the only building of the kind in town. This was his home until the time of his death, in June 1884. His family still occupy the homestead, which contains nearly 600 acres of land.

George N. Conkey was born in the town of Canton, St. Lawrence county, New York, December 6, 1827. He was reared on his father's farm and received his education in the common school. He was married in 1852 to Scelinda Stewart. He then rented a farm in the town of Potsdam and lived there until 1855, when he started west to seek a home, joined a brother in Wisconsin and pushed on to Iowa, and stopped near

West Union until August; then returned to York State for his family, returning with them that fall, making the trip on boats and cars as far as Milwaukee; there embarked with a team and drove to West Union, and remained there until May 19, 1856; then again started with a team for Minnesota. After eight days' travel they reached Mower county, selecting a farm on section 30. The family lived in the wagon until he could go to St. Ansgar and get lumber to build a board shanty. During the fall he erected a log house, into which they moved and lived until 1866, when he moved into the frame house he now occupies. Mrs. Conkey was born in the town of Potsdam, St. Lawrence county, New York, November, 1829; died April 24, 1862, leaving five children, named Eunice A., Henry B., Carrie B., Pliny A., Scelinda E. His second wife, to whom he was married in April, 1866, was Eliza Fassett, widow of Stephen Burgor. She was a native of Canada East, Province of Quebec.

Alfred Richardson was born in Massachusetts, January 4, 1814. When he was young his parents moved to York State, where he was married in the fall of 1837 to Sarah Marsh. She was born in Vermont, April 22, 1812. In the fall of 1850 they moved to Ohio and lived two years, then moved to Iowa and lived near West Union until the spring of 1856, when they came to Windom, as before stated. Mrs. Richardson died in 1868, leaving two children, Amy D., wife of Albert Hort, of Dakota, and Abigail M., wife of I. J. B. Wright, of Red Rock township. Mr. Richardson was married again in 1869 to Martha C. Rutherford. She was a native of

Indiana, born June 20, 1838. Their home is now in Cook county, Dakota.

During the same year (1856) the following arrived with their families: Chester Fuller and his son Walter, Obediah Smith, Andrew Robertson, Aaron Draper, Mrs. Ann Smith and son Thomas, Ira W. Padden, Martin O'Maley, Michael Slaven, Patrick O'Maley, Quincy A. Truesdell, William Cowan, Henry Fero, Peter McGrath and A. J. Clark.

The Fullers were natives of Connecticut, but came here from Wisconsin. They settled on the west half of the northeast quarter of section 20. The father, Chester Fuller, died three weeks later. This was the first death in the township. Walter made this his home until the time of his death, and his widow still occupies the homestead.

Obediah Smith was a native of New Jersey. He came here from Iowa and settled on the north half of the northwest quarter of section 7, where he still lives.

A. Robertson was a native of Scotland. He settled on the northeast quarter of section 26. He improved a farm and lived there until 1880, when he closed out and removed to Nebraska, where, it is said, he is doing well.

The O'Maleys and William Cowan were natives of Ireland. Patrick O'Maley settled on the southeast quarter of section 26, where he lived until after the railroad was built, when he sold out and removed to Racine county, Wisconsin, where he now lives. Martin located on the northeast quarter of section 6, where he made his home until the time of his death. His death occurred while he was in Illinois, and was caused by a runaway accident. William Cowan settled

on the northeast quarter of section 5 and still occupies the place.

Mrs. Smith settled on the southeast quarter of section 13, where she lived four years; then went to Mineral Point, Wisconsin, where she died three months later. Her son Thomas settled on the northeast quarter of section 12. Ten years later he sold out and bought the place first settled upon by his mother, and still lives there.

Q. A. Truesdell settled on the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 10. He stopped there but a short time, when he sold out and moved to Austin, and for some years was engaged in various lines of business; but he finally removed to Minneapolis, where he is now engaged in the real estate business.

Michael Slaven was a native of Ohio. He located on the southeast quarter of section 13, where he lived until 1874, when he sold out. In 1884 he was living in Dexter township.

Henry Fero was born in the State of Wisconsin. He settled on the southwest quarter of section 6, where he lived two or three years, then sold out and removed to Iowa. Early in the war he enlisted, and, it is said, was killed in battle.

Peter McGrath located on the southwest quarter of section 5, where he lived for several years.

A. J. Clark was a native of New York State. The southwest quarter of section 17 was selected by him. He enlisted when the war broke out in the Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and died in the service at Helena, Arkansas. The family afterward moved west.

Ira W. Padden was a native of the State of New York, but came here from Canada early in 1856, and settled on the southeast quarter of section 6. During the war he served in Company C, Ninth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and was discharged with the regiment in 1865. He was cruelly murdered in the fall after his return. He was at a threshing in the neighborhood and was passing grain to the machine. It seems he passed it on to the table too fast to suit the man that was feeding the machine, and the fellow challenged him to fight which he refused to do. The murderer then went to a house near by and borrowed a revolver, and returning again challenged him to fight. Mr. Padden again refused, upon which the man fired upon him, and he died from the effect of the shot in a few moments. The murderer was an Irishman who did not live in the neighborhood. He procured a horse and made his escape.

Aaron Draper claimed the northwest quarter of section 35. He was a blacksmith by trade, the first in the township. He set his forge up out of doors at first. Thomas Smith burned the charcoal for him and took his pay in work. He finally put up a log building for a shop, but never put on any roof. He had quite a large drove of cattle, but did not have sufficient food or shelter for them, and a number died during the cold winter of 1856-57. He never proved up on his claim, but left it and went to St. Ansgar, Mitchell county, Iowa.

John A. Thompson, a native of New York State, also came in 1856, and after entering land on the southeast quarter of section 7, he returned to New York State. In the

spring of 1857 he came back and settled upon his land, and still occupies it.

Walter Fuller, one of the pioneers of Mower county, was a native of Connecticut. He was born in Tolland county, October 29, 1809. When a young man his parents moved to Vermont, and settled in Rutland county, where he grew to manhood. He received a common school education. Mr. Fuller was married March 29, 1835, to Miss Mary Ann Gibbs, who was born in Rutland county August 24, 1817. They removed to Erie, Pennsylvania, soon after their marriage, and engaged in farming, remaining there two years, when they moved to Lake county, Ohio, and settled near Painesville, living there until 1850, when they emigrated to Wisconsin, and settled in Fon du Lac county. Mr. Fuller bought 160 acres of government land, improving a portion of it, and built a log house. In 1856 he sold there and started for Minnesota with three yoke of oxen and two wagons, bringing their household goods and cooking utensils with them. After three week's travel they reached Mower county, and entered the northeast of section 20, town 102, range 17, now known as the town of Windom. There was a claim shanty on the place into which the family moved and lived until the last of November. In the meantime Mr. Fuller had drawn some oak logs to Austin, had them sawed, and erected a frame and covered it with boards—moving into it before the roof was put on. The subject of this sketch raised his first crop in 1857. He was an industrious man and soon had all his land under a good state of cultivation; setting out a number of shade trees, also fruit trees, and erected a good frame

house and barn. Mr. Fuller died November 16, 1882, leaving a widow and two children to mourn his death. The names of the children are Eugene L. and Rosetta, now the wife of William Snider, and one son named Frances, who died at the age of twenty. Mr. Fuller was prominent in town affairs, being the first collector and treasurer of the town, an office he held several years. Mr. and Mrs. Fuller were members of the first Baptist organization at Austin, he being a member at the time of his death. Mrs. Fuller is still a member of the same church.

John A. Thompson is one of the pioneers of the town of Windom. He was born in the town of Preston, Chenango county, New York, November 27, 1829. When he was five years old his parents removed to Steuben county and settled in Addison, where he grew to manhood. Raised on a farm, his early education was received in the district school and advanced by three terms at Addison Academy. When he was 21 years old he went to Ohio and engaged in teaching a few months in Clark county. He then returned to New York, and taught winters and engaged in farming and carpentering in the summer. He was married April 30, 1857, to Mary A. Benedict. She was born in the town of Woodhull, Steuben county, New York. A few days later they started for their new home in the west, going by rail to Dunleith, then via the Mississippi river to McGregor, then by wagon to the town of Windom, and settled on the land he had entered the year previous. He erected a small frame house and immediately commenced improving the land. He has since made an addition to his house and has erected two

frame barns and a granary. He is engaged in raising grain and stock. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are the parents of seven children, viz.: Mary A., John A., Jr., Robert L., Howard C., Sylvester D., Thaddeus S. and Emily. Mr. Thompson enlisted August 28, 1862, in Company C, Ninth Minnesota; first went to the Western frontier in pursuit of the Indians; in September, 1863, went South, and remained until after the close of the war. He was discharged with the regiment and returned home. He was a member of the first Board of Supervisors, and has since been chairman several terms. He has been in office the greater part of the time since his settlement here and has filled various offices.

Thomas Smith was born at St. Helens, Lancashire, England, in October, 1832. His early education was received in the common schools, and advanced by four years attendance at Woodard's academy of natural science. In 1842, in company with his parents, he emigrated to America and settled in Racine county, Wisconsin, where his father purchased government land and the subject of our sketch assisted him in making a farm. The winter seasons he improved by attending school. In 1849 the father died, and Thomas being the oldest son at home became the head of the family and managed the farm. He was married July 8, 1855, to Margaret R. Gorman. In 1856 they sold the homestead, and he, accompanied by his mother and nine brothers and sisters, came to Mower county, starting from Racine with horse teams. At Winona they traded the horses for oxen and continued the journey, and arrived in Mower county after nineteen days' travel. He had no money with which to

pay for the land, so he hired a man to enter it for him. He did the first breaking in 1857, and sowed the first wheat in 1858, but that year it was a failure. He was more successful after that and paid for the land by raising wheat, which he drew to Winona. He occupied the place of his first settlement in section 12 about ten years, then moved to his present location. He has here erected a good set of frame buildings; has set shade, fruit and ornamental trees, and now enjoys the comforts of an eastern home. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are the parents of two children, named George E. and Francis J. Mr. Smith has taken a lively interest in public affairs, and has filled the various offices of trust in the town. His brother Alfred was born in the town of Daner, Racine county, Wisconsin, November 22, 1848, was but eight years of age when he came to Mower county, and thirteen years of age at the time of his mother's death. He then lived four years with Colonel Parkinson, a farmer near Mineral Point, Wisconsin, after which he was employed in a lumber yard at Mineral Point two years, during which time he worked at the carpenter and joiner trade a portion of the time. He was afterward employed as coachman for Wm. T. Henry, and remained with him until 1872, when he went to California, where he spent a short time, then returned to Mower county and stopped with his brother a while after which he returned to Mineral Point and spent one year, then returned to Windom, and settled on land that he had previously purchased. In 1876 he sold that place and bought in section 14, where he owns 160 acres of land; has planted a grove and built a good frame house.

George W. Benton was born in the city of Utica, New York, February 16, 1832. His father, Royal Benton, was a native of Connecticut. He was a merchant in Utica. When the subject of our sketch was four years of age his parents emigrated to Ohio, and settled in the town of Vienna, where his father started a tailor shop, and where he died a few years later. The family continued to reside there and the subject of our sketch made his home with his mother until sixteen years of age, when he started with a team to Logan county, and commenced work on the railroad for one season, when he went to Bellefontaine and engaged in teaming. He was married there in 1852 to Caroline J. Royer, after which he rented a small place and commenced burning lime and selling building stone for one year, when he began buying and selling horses, taking them to Galena and Kentucky. In 1856 he made his first visit to Minnesota, when he bought a drove of horses, which he sold in St. Paul. He visited Mower county, but did not buy any land. In December, 1856, he came to Austin with his family, and spent the winter with his brother Elon, then living on section 7, town of Windom. He immediately commenced teaming from McGregor, Wabasha and Winona to Austin. In the spring of 1857 he claimed the southwest quarter of section 9, but did not settle on it at the time, but moved to Austin. The following winter he built a log house and moved into it in the spring of 1858. As soon as the land came into market he borrowed the money with which to enter it, putting in the first crop in 1858. Just before harvest a hail storm nearly ruined his crop. He, however,

mowed the grain with a scythe and threshed it by hand. He had forty bushels of oats and twelve bushels of wheat, which he determined to keep for seed. The family subsisted on corn meal for nearly a year. Two of his horses died previous to this and the future looked dark to him, but he persevered, and since that time he has improved and farmed five quarter sections of land and has partially improved two other quarters. He has enlarged his house, erected a barn, and is engaged in raising grain and stock. He now has 720 acres of improved and pasture land. His wife was born in Logan county, Ohio, May 31, 1839, and died October 15, 1880, leaving four children, viz.: Royal, Winfield, Charles and Alfred. His second wife, to whom he was married in November, 1881, was Sarah C., daughter of Barnabas and Maria (Fitch) Johnson and widow of George Bennett. They have one child, named George A. Mr. Bennett was born in Schatigee, New York. He settled in Minnesota in 1863, and was married in November, 1873. He died at Mona, Iowa, March 6, 1881, at 34 years of age, leaving one child, named George A. Bennett.

Obediah Smith is the present assessor. He was born in Sussex county, New Jersey, July 18, 1830. His younger days were spent on the farm. In the meantime he took advantage of such opportunity as offered to acquire an education. When he was twenty-two years of age he engaged with a carpenter and joiner to learn the trade, at which he worked in New Jersey until 1854. During that year he came west and spent a few weeks in Wisconsin, then returned to New Jersey and spent the winter. In 1855 he

again came west and located in Delaware county, Iowa, remaining there until the fall of 1856, when he came to Mower county, as before stated. He spent the winter in a log cabin, located on section 1, town of Austin. The following spring he settled on the place he now occupies in section 7. He was married in 1854 to Mary A. Basleder, also a native of New Jersey. They have five children, named David, Orminda, Ernest, Etta J. and Harlan W.

During the year 1857 the following were among the arrivals: Alonson Wright and son Alonzo, Harry, Roswell and Cook Slocum, William Furlong, Henry H. Vail, Stephen Sutton and son George, and George W. Benton.

The Wrights were natives of New York State, but came here from Green county, Wisconsin. Alonson entered the northeast quarter of section 13, where he lived some years; then removed to Austin, where he died in January, 1878, and where his widow still lives. Alonzo entered the northwest quarter of section 13. He is now a resident of Yankton, D. T., where he is engaged in the insurance business.

The Slocums were also natives of the State of New York, but had lived for a time in Illinois. They came late in the spring. After making claims, breaking some land and erecting shanties, they returned to Illinois and harvested their crops. In the fall they returned and settled on their claims. Harry's claim was the southeast quarter of section 10. He still owns the farm, though he is now a resident of Austin, where he is in business. Roswell settled on the northeast quarter of section 10. He improved a farm,

which he occupied several years, then moved to Austin, where he now lives. Cook settled on the southeast quarter of section 9, where he lived for several years. He died in Austin.

Messrs. Sutton and Furlong were both natives of Ireland. Furlong located on the northeast corner of section 8, where he made his home until the time of his death. The Suttons claimed the southwest quarter of section 26. The father died there December 24, 1859. His son entered the land in 1860 and still owns it.

George W. Benton claimed the southeast quarter of section 9, and this is still his home.

H. H. Vail was a native of Vermont. He came here from Illinois and pre-empted the northwest quarter of section 2, where he still lives.

Henry H. Vail was born in Rutland county, Vermont, November 9, 1821, and was reared in agricultural pursuits, his younger days having been spent assisting his father on the farm. He attended the district schools in the winter, after which he attended three terms at Troy Conference Academy, at West Poultney, and one term at Casselton Academy. At 17 years of age he commenced teaching, and was employed teaching winters and farming the remainder of the year for several years. He was married in 1842 to Martha Wait, also a native of Rutland county. She died in 1853. Two years later he immigrated to Illinois, and spent two years at Marengo, McHenry county; then came to Mower county and settled in the town of Windom. His second wife, to whom he was married in March, 1859, was Mary W.

Vandegrift. She was born in Philadelphia. Eleven children have been born to them, of whom ten are now living, named Anna, William M., Charles W., Carrie, John M., Maggie, Isabella, Mary, Moses E. and Hattie C.

Stephen Sutton was born in the North of Ireland, June 23, 1803. He received a good education in his younger days and became civil engineer. He was employed as government surveyor in Ireland fourteen years, and traveled all over that country. He was married in county Donegal, to Mary McBride, a native of that county. In 1849 they came to America and located at Norwich, Chenango county, New York, where he remained until April, 1857, then started west to seek a home. Coming directly to Minnesota he made a claim as before stated, and made his home here until the time of his death.

William Furlong was born in Tipperary county, Ireland, January 6, 1798, and there grew to manhood, reared to agricultural pursuits, and was joined in marriage to Sarah Carter, also a native of the same county. In 1852 they left their native land for America, landed at New York, and located in Delaware county, Pennsylvania, and engaged in farming, remaining there until 1854, then emigrated to Galena, Illinois, where he rented a farm until the spring of 1857, when he came to Mower county and entered the northeast quarter of section 8, town of Windom, as it is now known. He erected a log house and improved a great portion of the land. This was his home until the time of his death, which occurred March 24th, 1879. Mrs. Furlong died July 27th, 1872. They

were the parents of seven children, six of whom are still living, Thomas, Mary, Patrick James, William T., John J., Ellen.

Captain Luke B. Fairbanks, deacon of Rose Creek Congregational church, was born in Windsor county, Vermont, March 28th, 1838. When he was seventeen years old, he went to Iowa and joined an older brother in Mitchell county, and remained three years with him in Mitchell and Howard counties, when they came to Austin. His brother purchased an interest in a steam saw mill and later added a flour mill. He assisted his brother in the mill until 1860, when he bought a farm in the town of Windom, spending the summer here with his brother, and in the fall returned to Vermont.

May, 1861, he enlisted in Company F Third Vermont Volunteer Infantry, and with the regiment joined the Army of the Potomac. The first battle in which he participated was the battle of Lees Mills, in which he was wounded. As soon as he was able to make the trip he was granted a furlough and visited home. He again joined the regiment after an absence of three months. His health was not good at the time and he was detached for the recruiting service in Vermont. He again joined the regiment in December, and remained with them until the close of the war, having veteranized in 1863. Among the many battles in which he participated we mention the following: Second battle of Fredericksburg, Wilderness, Petersburg, Cold Harbor and Spottsylvania; he was with Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley, and participated in the battle of Winchester; he was in New York City at the time of the riot, and in the battle of Gettysburg and

Cedar Creek. Mr. Fairbanks was mustered into the service as a private. He was promoted for gallant and meritorious conduct May, 1864, to first Lieutenant, and soon after to Captain. He was discharged from the service with the regiment July 1865, and returned to Vermont and bought a farm. In 1869 he sold there and emigrated to Kansas, where he took a homestead and bought some wild land. He built a stone house and improved a portion of the land, living there until 1872, when he came to Mower county and bought wild land in the northwest quarter of section 29, where he now has a pleasant home. In 1862 he was married to Carrie Bowen, also a native of Vermont. They have five children, named Samuel, Henry, Eugene, Guy and Dan.

Following are sketches of settlers of a later date:

John C. Ruland (deceased) came to Mower county in 1865 and took as a homestead the east one-half of the southeast quarter of section 22, which was his home until the time of his death. He was born in Long Island, January 11, 1821. When he was quite young his parents moved to Pennsylvania, which he made his home until grown to manhood. He then moved to Illinois, where he was joined in marriage to Mary Bird, a native of Canada. They remained in Illinois, until 1858, when they came to Minnesota and located in Freeborn county, where they were early settlers, and remained in that county until 1863, when they came to Mower county, as before stated. Mr. Ruland enlisted in December of that year in Company B, Second Minnesota Cavalry, and served until the close of the war. He was

discharged with the regiment and returned home, where he resumed farming. His health was impaired by exposure, and he never recovered. His death occurred March 18, 1871. After his death, Mrs. Ruland, with assistance, successfully managed the farm. The children were given an opportunity to receive an education, and some of them were fitted for teachers. Mrs. Ruland died April 14, 1879. There were nine children born to them, six of whom are now living, named Arminda H., Charles H., Jennie S., Emma M., Laura J. and Etta E.

Silas H. Miner (deceased) came to Mower county in April, 1863, and settled in section 22. He entered eighty acres—the west one-half of the northeast quarter. He enlisted November 1 of that year, in the Second Minnesota Cavalry, Company B. He died in the service, at St. Cloud, Minnesota, May 7, 1865, while on his way to Fort Wadsworth to join the command, after having a furlough home. Mr. Miner was born in the town of Lydon, Franklin county, Massachusetts, February 23, 1823. He was married August 20, 1842, to Sarah N. Pierce. She was born in the town of Dummerston, Windham county, Vermont, September 24, 1822. In August, 1844, they moved to York State, and settled in Brookfield, Madison county, where he remained ten years, when he moved to Illinois, stopping in Warren county until the spring of 1856, when he moved to Iowa and located in Howard county, where he lived two and a half years; thence to Fillmore county, Minnesota, living there until 1860; when he removed to Houston county, staying until 1863, when he came to Mower county. Mrs. Miner still occupies the homestead. She has

nine children living, named Charles R., Benjamin F., Mary Martha, Myron, Etta J., William P., Silas H. and Dora. Their son, Charles R., was born in Madison county, New York, September 15, 1845. He came to Minnesota with his parents, and was with them in Houston county until August 20, 1862, when he enlisted in Company F, Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He went northwest to meet the Indians, and remained in Minnesota until the fall of 1863, when he went south, and remained until the close of the war. He was discharged with the regiment, August 20 1865. He participated in the battles of Tupelo, Nashville, Spanish Fort and many minor engagements. On his return he settled on the homestead with his mother, and has since devoted his time to farming. Silas H. and Dora make their home with their mother also.

John C. Hawkins came to Mower county in the fall of 1865, to join his family who had preceded him. He was born in Centre county, Pennsylvania, June 2, 1832, when he was thirteen years of age his parents moved to Ohio and settled in Monroe township, Ashtabula county. When he was seventeen years of age he engaged with a carpenter and joiner to learn the trade. He was joined in marriage in 1853, to Sarah C. Woodard. She was born in the town of Richmond, Ashtabula, county, Ohio. Soon after their marriage he bought 50 acres of land in Monroe township, and engaged in farming until 1861. He enlisted in August of that year in the 2nd Ohio Heavy Artillery, and served until August 8th, 1865, when he was discharged with the regiment. He had participated in the battles of Barnell Station,

Georgia, Cleveland, Strawberry Plains and Athens, Tennessee. While he was in the army his wife had come to Mower county with her parents, and taken as a homestead the place he now occupies. He has purchased adjoining land and now has 240 acres of improved land. Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins are the parents of seven children, named Vincent J., Annie M., Susan P., Arthur W., Millie A., Jay Q., Henry F. Mr. Hawkin's father, Vincent Hawkins, was a native of England, born in Derbyshire, in July, 1800; came to America when a young man and located in Pennsylvania, where he was married to Anna Crowell, a native of Maryland. He enlisted at the first call for troops at the breaking out of the rebellion in 1861. He was then in his 61st year. When asked his age, he answered that his fighting age was forty-five. He served his term of three months, then returned home. He again enlisted in August, 1861, in the Second Ohio Light Artillery and served nearly two years. He was then discharged at St. Louis on account of disability and started home. On his arrival at Cleveland he re-enlisted in the 143d Ohio Infantry and remained until the close of the war, when he was discharged from the invalid corps. He remained a resident of Ohio a few years, then went to Clay county, Iowa, and took a homestead claim. In 1873 he came to Austin on a visit, where he died a few weeks later.

Ira Snyder came to Mower county in 1870, and settled on the southeast of section 28, land that he had bought in 1865. The land was unimproved at the time. He built a house and immediately commenced to break prairie. One hundred and forty acres

of the land is now under cultivation. He occupied that place until the fall of 1882, when he bought the northeast quarter of the same section, and moved there. He has purchased other land and now owns 400 acres of land besides five acres of timber in the town of Austin. Mr. Snyder was born in Orange county, New York, August 29th, 1842. When he was five years of age his parents emigrated to Wisconsin and settled in the town of Centre, Rock county, where they were pioneers. His father bought land there which he occupied until 1856, when he sold and moved to Kansas, and settled on the Red Vermilion river, one hundred miles west of Leavenworth City, then on the extreme frontier. His father located on a farm but the family were sick, and then the house burned, and they returned to Wisconsin after one year's experience in Kansas. On his return to Wisconsin they settled in the town of Plymouth, Rock county. His father made his home there until the time of his death. His mother still remains there. The subject of our sketch made his home with his parents till 1861, when he enlisted in the 13th Wisconsin, Company D Volunteer Infantry. He veteranized in 1863 and served until the close of the war, when was discharged with the regiment, at St. Antonia, Texas, in December, 1865. He participated in many battles and skirmishes. After his discharge he returned to Rock county, and engaged in farming. In 1867, he went to York State and spent one year in New York City, then he returned to Rock county and remained until 1870, when he came to Mower county. Mr. Snyder has been twice married. His first wife to whom he was married March 4,

1869, was Sarah J. Brown. She was born in Kent county, Canada, October 22, 1842. She died February 16, 1877. His second wife he married December 19, 1877. She was Cena C. Syck, born in Denmark, April 18, 1858. His first wife left four children—Howard F., Ora B., Durward B., Harry B. By his second wife he has two children, Spencer G. and Fay L. Mr. Snyder has filled offices of trust in that town.

August Millrad came to Mower county in 1870, and bought the north quarter of section 3, town of Windom. It was unimproved prairie land at the time. He has improved the land, erected a good frame house, frame barn, 40x56, and a frame granary. He has set a good grove, besides fruit trees and shrubs. He was born in Prussia, April 20, 1836, where he grew to manhood. His father was a shepherd, and he assisted him in attending to his flocks, until he was 18 years of age; then engaged in farming. In 1859 he left his native land for America, and landed at New York, May 31, of that year. He came directly to Wisconsin, and located in the town of Burnett, Dodge county, and found employment at farming. He remained there four years, and then started for Minnesota to seek for a location; starting with three horses and a wagon. He drove to Winnebago City, then to Geneva, Freeborn county, where he traded a pair of horses for eighty acres of land. He occupied the land two years, then sold, and again traded his team for eighty acres in the town of Waltham, Mower county. He did not settle in Waltham, but went to Wisconsin, where he rented four years; then came to Mower county and traded his land in Wal-

tham for the land he now owns. He has since purchased the south quarter of section 11, and now has 320 acres of land. He was married in 1864 to Mary J. Williams. She was born in Connecticut. They have four children—Jay, Alice, George, Burtie.

William V. Little came to Minnesota in 1877, and spent the summer in the town of Windom, and during the time he bought the Davis farm known as Saint's Rest, in the southwest quarter of section 20. In January, 1878, moved with his family and occupied the Davis house until 1881, when he erected the house he now occupies. It is a good frame building with ten rooms.

Mr. Little was born at High Gate, Franklin county, Vermont, June 1, 1827. When he was eight years of age his parents moved to Middlesex, Washington county, where he grew to manhood and reared to agricultural pursuits. When he was twenty years old he went to Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and engaged in the boat business, remaining there until 1849, when he went to South Royalton, Vermont, and opened a shop and carried on boat business for a short time.

October, 1851, he married Miss Charlotte M. Morgan. She was born in Nashua, New Hampshire, October 8, 1833. In June following their marriage they moved to Michigan and settled in Washtenau county, and with his brother engaged in the mercantile business, remaining there until 1853, when he sold and moved to Fall River, Wisconsin, where he opened a blacksmith and wagon shop, remaining in that business until August 11, 1862, when he enlisted in Company K, Thirty-second Volunteer Infantry, and went South. He was in the service until af-

ter the close of the war. He was discharged June 25, 1865, and returned to Fall River. In 1864 he was transferred to the veteran reserve corps, Second battalion; and in March, 1865, to the Twenty-third Regiment, First battalion. He participated in quite a number of battles. Soon after his return he moved to Rock county and bought a farm in the town of Milton and remained there until 1877, when he came to Mower county. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Little. Lucy A. was born in Manchester, Washtenau county, Michigan, September 25, 1852, dying in Milton, Wisconsin, March 21, 1880. Willie H. was born at Fall River, Wisconsin, March 29, 1858, and died in Milton May 2, 1869.

Asa H. Williams came to Mower county in 1873, and bought a residence in the city of Austin, where he lived until January, 1875. In the spring of 1874 he bought land in sections 25 and 36, town of Windom, Rose Creek. It was unimproved prairie land, and in the spring of 1874 he commenced to make improvements, and in the fall of that year built a frame house in the southwest of section 25. The house was 40x24, 16 feet post, and contained twelve rooms. Mr. Williams moved into his house January, 1875. He also built a barn 34x125 feet long. He has set out one hundred fruit trees, as well as ornamental. In 1876 he bought eighty acres, west one-half northwest of 35. Mr. Williams was born in Kenebec county, Maine, September 30, 1835. He was reared on a farm that his grandfather purchased in 1773. He received a common school education. Mr. Williams was joined in marriage to Lydia A. Waite, January 19,

1860. She was born in Somerset county, Maine. They settled on the old homestead in Augusta, where they lived until 1873, when they sold and came to Mower county. When he first came to Mower county he engaged in raising grain, but soon commenced stock raising, and is now paying special attention to short horns.

Monroe Peck came to Mower county in 1874, and bought the northeast quarter of section 9. There was a small house and barn on the place and about 100 acres broken. He now has it all under cultivation and has made two additions to the house and set a grove out. He was born in Lewis county, New York, February 17, 1818. He was raised on a farm, received his education in the common schools. He was married in Lewis county, in 1844, to Mary A. Dickin-son. She was born in Oneida county, New York. He bought a farm in Lewis county, town of Harrisburg. They lived in that county two years, then in 1846 sold out and bought in Jefferson county, living there six years; buying a farm in Denmark, Lewis county, living there until 1857, went then to Dodge county, Wisconsin, near Dodge Center; remaining there three years, when he traded for a farm near Oak Grove in the same county, and lived there seven years; then sold and moved to Iowa, and located in Waukon, where he engaged in the hardware business, in which he remained eighteen months, when he came to Mower county. Mr. and Mrs. Peck are the parents of four children, Rosina, Eugene, George L. and Mary.

Jens A. Jensen came to Mower county first in 1868. He was a young man at the

time and did not make a settlement, but stopped in the town of Bennington until 1869, when he returned to his native land to visit friends, staying but a few months, when he returned to Mower county. In 1873 he bought land in the northeast section 24, town of Windom. Mr. Jensen is a natural mechanic, and he set about to build a house for himself, which he accomplished in a satisfactory manner, and, since that time, he has been called upon frequently to do carpenter work. He was born in Denmark in June, 1846, where his youthful days were spent on the farm and in school, remaining at home with his parents until 21 years of age, when he left his native land and came to America, landing at Quebec; went directly to Fon du Lac county, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1868, when he came to Mower county. Mr. Jensen has been twice married. His first wife, to whom he was married in 1870, was Doratha Johansen. She was a native of Denmark. Three children blessed their union, two of whom are now living, named Annie M. and Johanna. Mrs. Jensen died in 1874. His second wife was Sinne Nelson. She was also a native of Denmark. They have three children, viz.: Mary, Jens and Nellie D. Mr. Jensen has filled the office of supervisor for three years, from 1881 to 1884.

Warren W. Dean was born in the town of Deposit, Broome county, New York, November 10, 1820. When he was but a boy, he went to live with an uncle, who was a merchant and lumber dealer. He assisted his uncle and acquired an insight into the business, that was useful to him later. At twenty years of age, he went to Ithica, New York, and engaged with a firm of lumber

dealers. He devoted himself strictly to business, and soon won the confidence of his employers, and he became a member of the firm, which was successful in business. He remained there a few years, moved to New York and engaged in the same business with H. W. Sage, remaining there twenty years, then removed to Toledo, Ohio, and carried on business there until 1871, then removed to St. Paul. In 1872, he built the first line of street railway in St. Paul. In 1873, he sold the railway, receiving as part payment large tracts of land in Mower county. During the year 1873, accompanied by his family, he visited California, and spent a year, then returned to St. Paul. He concluded to improve the land, and a great part of the spring and summer season he spent in Mower county. In 1880, the family moved here, settling in the town of Marshall. He died October 7th, of that year. He had been twice married. His first wife to whom he was married in New York, was Sarah Baker. She left two children, named Henry and Oscar, both residents of Tompkins county, New York. His second wife to whom he was married at Toledo, October 3, 1870, was Sophronia Hubbard. Four children blessed this union, named—Willie, Daisy, Warren H. and Annie H. Mr. Dean took a lively interest in all public affairs, was an advocate of temperance, and in politics was a staunch Republican. In 1882, Mrs. Dean purchased her present residence near Rose Creek Station, in the town of Windom.

#### SCHOOLS.

Educational interests received attention early in the history of the township. There were two districts organized in 1857—Nos.

23 and 24. The first school in that part of district No. 23, now included in No. 40, was taught by Jane Reeves in a board shanty on section 6, owned by Henry Fero. The term commenced in the last of May, 1857. In the fall of that year a log school house was erected on the southwest of the northeast quarter of section 6. This was the first building erected for educational purposes in the township. Martha Slocum was the first teacher in this house. In 1867 the district was divided. The south part retained the old number and erected a temporary building in the southwestern part of the northwest quarter of section 7. Amanda Streaver taught the first term in this building. In 1868 the present school house was erected on the same site. Rebecca Otis first taught in this building.

The north part of the district was designated as No. 40. Lumber was purchased to build a school house, but they were not quite ready to build and a temporary shanty was erected on the northeast corner of section 6. Maggie Smith taught the first term there. Soon afterward the frame building that is now in use was erected on the old site. Amelia Houghton was the first teacher in this house.

The first school in district No. 24 was taught by Mrs. Horatio Marsh at her home. She found it too much work to teach and attend to her household duties and she kept but a short time, when Mary Slaven was engaged and completed the term. The following year a school house was erected on the north half of the southeast quarter of section 20, by subscription. Kate Bailey was the first teacher in this house. That

building was in use until 1868, when the present house was built on the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 29. Agnes Hull was the first teacher in this house.

Districts Nos. 25 and 88.—The territory included in these districts was organized into a district December 27, 1859, and the first school was taught, in Patrick O'Maley's house, by Sarah Slaven. School was afterwards taught in Michael Slaven's house. In 1864 a log house was erected on the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 23, in which Rosetta Fuller taught the first term of school. In 1874 the district was divided, the south part retaining the old number. A frame house was erected at Rose Creek village, in which Mary J. Gregory taught the first term of school.

The north part of the district, now designated as No. 88, used the old log house until 1876, when a new building was erected on the south part of section 13. George Emery was the first teacher in this house.

District No. 22 was organized in 1865, and a frame school house was erected on the southeast quarter of section 10, in which Melinda Brown taught the first school. Roswell Slocum donated half an acre of land for the school house site. The lumber was drawn from Winona. Obediah Smith put up the building. It cost \$300.

The first school in district No. 82 was taught in a house that was erected by Thomas Smith on the northeast quarter of section 12. This was in 1867. Maggie Smith was the first teacher. Three terms of school were taught in that house, when a frame building was erected on the southeast

corner of section 1, in which Addie Fairbanks was the first to teach.

District No. 46 was organized in 1869 at a meeting held at the house of J. C. Hawkins, on the 27th of March. During the following year a board shanty was erected on the southwest corner of section 32. The first term of school was taught in that building by Maggie Smith. In 1874 the present house was erected on the site occupied by the temporary building. It is a good frame building and cost \$1,000. James Woodard was the first teacher in this house.

District No. 73 was organized in 1869. The first building for a school house was a cheap structure located on the southwest corner of section 14. Alice French was the first teacher. There was no school taught here during the winter seasons. In 1876 a good building was erected on the southeast quarter of section 22, in which Newell Slocum was the first teacher. This is called the "Centennial District."

George Emery, who has for quite a number of years been a teacher in Mower county, was born in Lake county, Illinois, November 27, 1840. He was there reared on a farm, receiving his education in the public schools. His father, James Emery, was a native of England, and one of the pioneers of Lake county. The farm he now occupies he entered from the government at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. The subject of our sketch made his home with his parents until 1864, when he went to Ossian, Iowa, where he engaged in buying wheat for Bassett Hunting & Co. two years. In 1866, he came to Austin and worked at the carpenter's trade. In 1867, he opened a select

school in Austin, and taught three terms. Since that time he has taught thirteen terms of public school in the county. Mr. Emery was married in July, 1881, to Ella Watkins, a native of Iowa. He had previously bought a farm in the northwest quarter of section 12, and at the time of his marriage settled there. Mr. Emery now devotes his time in the winter to teaching, and the remainder of the year in farming. They have one child, Hannah.

#### BROOKLY POSTOFFICE.

The first postoffice in Windom township was established in 1858, under the name of "Brookly." It was on the mail route from McGregor to Austin. The name was afterward changed to Canton. Horatio Marsh was the first postmaster. He was succeeded a few years later by Walter Fuller, who resigned shortly after the railroad was built, and the office was discontinued. Mr. Fuller turned over the books, etc., of the office to George Sutton, then postmaster at Rose Creek.

#### RELIGIOUS.

Early in the history of the town ministers of different denominations visited Windom and preached at private houses. Among the early preachers were: John Arnold, a United Brethren; Rev. Mapes, a Methodist; Nelson and Stephen Cook, Congregational, and Asa Marsh, Baptist.

Elder Arnold organized a United Brethren class at the house of Alfred Richardson. The following were among the members: Alfred Richardson and wife, Isaac Peterman and wife, and Mrs. Ira W. Padden. Mr. Richardson was the first-class leader. Meetings were held at different private houses.

Among the various preachers were Elder M. L. Tibbetts, John Allaman, Daniel Reed and Elder Zimmerman. The class flourished but a short time.

Those of the Baptist faith living in the eastern part of the town attended services at Austin until 1868, when Elder Wharton held a series of meetings at the school house in District No. 24. A number of conversions were made and a branch of the Austin church was organized, which met at the school house for worship, services being held once in two weeks. In 1872 the members in this neighborhood called for letters of dismissal in order to establish an independent church. The following named became members: Horatio Marsh, Cynthia A. Marsh, Walter Fuller, George Van Camp, Emeline Van Camp, Mrs. Silas Miner, Alfred, Belle and John Fairbanks, John Bennett and wife, Charles, Myron and Etta Miner, Josephine Burgor, David Mollison and wife, Josephine M., Alena M., George W., Thomas E. and Joseph A. Mollison, George W. Shepley and wife, Thomas Edwards and wife, Hiram Eddie and wife, Mrs. Rosella Snyder and Arminda Rulen. Horatio Marsh and Alonzo Fairbanks were elected deacons, and George Van Camp clerk. The pulpit was supplied from Austin, and the class flourished three or four years, when some of the members moved away, others joined other churches and the meetings were discontinued. A Sunday school was organized in connection with this church. Horatio Marsh was the first and Mrs. A. Fairbanks the last superintendent.

In 1857 Nelson Cook, a native of Vermont, and a Congregational preacher by

profession, purchased the Davis farm and settled in this township. He was a graduate of Oberlin College. He soon afterwards organized a church there, which included members of different denominations who wished to identify themselves with some church. Among the members were: W. T. Mandeville, Alfred Richardson and wife, John Rose and wife, John Greggs and wife, Lyman St John and wife, David Austin and Father Hitchcock. John Rose was elected deacon. Meetings were held at Mr. Cook's house, at the house of Lyman St. John, in Nevada township, and other private houses. The organization flourished under Mr. Cook's care for four years, when failing health compelled him to go east. He went, intending to return, but his health continued to fail, and he died after a lingering illness. After this the church disbanded and the members joined different societies.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE TOWNSHIP.

When first organized, the territory now comprising Windom township, was merged into a township called Brookly, which embraced congressional townships 102 north, range 17, west, and 102, range 16 west. The first election was held at the house of Nelson Cook, on the 11th of May, 1858. At that time the following township officers were elected:

Supervisors—Alonson Wright, Chairman; John A. Thompson and A. J. Clark.

Clerk—Nelson Cook.

Justices of the Peace—Horatio Marsh and William Cowan.

Constable—Harry Slocum.

Assessor—Roswell Slocum.

Collector—Walter Fuller.

The judges of this election were: Nelson Cook, Horatio Marsh and Thomas Smith.

Early in 1862 the name of the township was changed from Brookly to Canton, and in May of the same year it was named Windom, in honor of Senator Windom. It assumed its present boundaries at about the same time.

The following is a list of those who have filled township offices since the organization, and been prominent in town affairs: E. C. Benton, P. O'Maley, G. N. Conkey, Stephen Sutton, A. Robertson, O. Smith, M. J. Slaven, A. H. Clark, J. H. Livingston, P. S. Conkey, H. Marsh, S. W. Rice, H. Erickson, A. J. French, A. Fairbanks, John Merrill, W. Bronson, Henry Burgor, H. H. Vale, Thomas Smith, William Furlong, Thomas Wright, Thomas H. B. Vandergrift, M. B. Slocum, G. W. Richards, Ira H. Warner, J. A. Priest, John C. Hawkins, F. B. Kline, George Sutton, F. G. Ray, A. H. Williams, H. O. Sweningson, J. J. Furlong, A. M. Baldwin, Jens A. Jensen, John Cronan, D. McTavish, Ira Snyder, Thomas Malone and A. D. Fairbanks.

The first marriage in the township was that of Jacob Lee to Rebecca Davis, who were married at the residence of the bride's parents, by D. B. Johnson, Jr., Justice of the Peace. They lived at Austin for a time then removed west. He enlisted in the army when the war broke out and was killed in battle.

The first death in the township was that of Chester Fuller, who died in 1856.

#### VILLAGE OF ROSE CREEK.

This village was platted by Selah Chamberlain in 1873. It is located on the south-

east quarter of the southeast quarter of section 26. The original plat contained four blocks. Since that time there has been one addition made to the plat, by Selah Chamberlain. It is pleasantly located, and the village is in a flourishing and growing condition. The surrounding country which is tributary to this place, is an excellent farming and stock raising region, and therefore the village has a substantial trade.

No intoxicating liquors are sold within the limits of the village. One party tried the business a few years ago by opening a club room, where he dealt out liquors. He was arrested and tried before M. B. Slocum, justice of the peace. On the first trial the jury disagreed, and he was tried again, and this time was convicted. He appealed to the District Court and was fined \$60. He then promised the citizens that if the fine could be remitted, he would promise never to sell, give away, or otherwise dispose of liquor at Rose Creek, or rent his building to anyone that would. The citizens then interposed in his behalf and the judge let him off with the payment of costs. No one has attempted to sell liquors since that time.

The railroad was completed through the site now occupied by Rose Creek in December, 1867. It was for some years a flag station. In 1878, the present depot building was erected. It is a convenient and well furnished building, 70x30 feet in size, with a tenement overhead. John Cronan was the first and is the present agent.

The first move toward business development at Rose Creek was the erection of a small warehouse in 1869, by William Pitcher, from Austin. Yates & Lewis rented the

warehouse and bought grain for a time. In 1870 M. B. Slocum commenced buying grain, with George Sutton as a silent partner. They were associated together two years, when they dissolved, and each went into the business separately. M. B. Slocum has been in the business ever since. He has erected two warehouses and an elevator that is run by steam power. In 1877 Bassett, Huntting & Co. erected a large elevator. They are represented here by William Lacy. John Cronan is also a grain buyer here. George Sutton has bought grain here most of the time since his first venture here.

Malvin B. Slocum, dealer in grain and lumber at Rose Creek, is the son of Harry and Maria Slocum, pioneers in the town of Windom. He was born May 3, 1849, in the State of New York. When he was six years of age his parents emigrated to Illinois, and remained there two years. In 1857 he came to Mower county and settled in the town of Windom. Here his early education was received in the district school.

In March, 1865, before he was sixteen years of age, he enlisted in Company G, First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and went South, and served until the close of the war, and was discharged with the regiment, July 26, 1865. After his return from the war he attended school in Austin and fitted himself for a teacher, when he afterwards engaged in teaching and farming until 1870, when he began buying grain at Rose Creek Station, the business in which he is still engaged at Rose Creek and Lyle, together with the lumber business, in which he embarked in 1873 at Rose Creek only.

Mr. Slocum was married in 1872 to Mar-

tha J. Hardy, daughter of Judge Charles F. and Waity Hardy. She died January 5, 1874, leaving one child that died when seven months old.

His second wife, to whom he was married February 1, 1876, was Amelia Houghton, daughter of pioneers of Mitchell county, Iowa. They have one child, Raymond. Mr. Slocum has established a good trade and has done a great deal to build up the village of Rose Creek. He has served as town clerk several terms and has also served as justice of the peace.

John A. Priest was the first merchant at Rose Creek. He commenced business in January, 1873, in an old log building, located near the village plat. He kept a very small stock at first. In the summer of 1873 he erected a building on lot 1, block 2, and increased his stock of goods. He remained in trade here until June, 1878, when he sold to Daniel McTavish and George W. Williams. In 1879 Williams sold his interest to A. J. Odekirk, and two years later Stanley Warner bought out the firm. Six months later he sold to C. R. Varco, who is still in trade.

The second store on the village plat was opened by J. C. Taskerud in 1875, in a building which he erected on lot 9, block 1. Two years later he closed out and went to Dakota.

John Cronan opened the third store in the village in 1877. He had erected a building on lot 4, of block 3. He remained in trade about a year, when he sold out to Corbitt Brothers, who closed out a few months later.

Olburg & Sweningsen opened the fourth store in 1877, in a building which they

erected on lot 11, block 1, in the first addition. Two years later they sold to McTavish & Odekirk, who were in business at the time. The latter firm moved from their old place of business to the building purchased of Olburg & Sweningsen, and were in trade until 1882, when they sold out.

In 1881 Charles Lacy opened a store in John Cronan's building. He closed up in the spring of 1883. Daniel McTavish opened in May, 1883, and is still in trade.

C. R. Varco, merchant at Rose Creek, is a son of Thomas and Emeline (Eddy) Varco, pioneers of Mower county. He was born in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, July 25, 1853. When he was three years of age his parents settled in Mower county. His early education was received at the common schools and advanced at the school in Austin. At nineteen years of age he engaged teaching at Cedar City. After teaching three terms he engaged in mercantile trade at Varco, a small station between Austin and Lyle. He erected a building there, put in a stock of general merchandise, and continued in trade there until 1882, when he came to Rose Creek, as has been before stated. He carries a good stock of general merchandise and leading groceries, dry goods, boots and shoes, hardware and crockery. Mr. Varco was married in October, 1878, to Isabella Gemmel, daughter of Andrew and Phoebe (Phelps) Gemmel, pioneers in Mower county, where she was born. They have two children, named Ray and Earl.

Rose Creek postoffice was established in 1868, and Isaac M. Ray was appointed the first postmaster. The office was kept at his

residence in the O'Maley house. The following have served as postmaster since that time: George Sutton, J. A. Priest, L. H. Moses and Daniel McTavish. The latter is the present incumbent. The office was made a money order office in 1878. The first order was drawn July 1, 1878, by John Hallin, for \$10, in favor of Andrew Peet, Independence, Kansas. The first order paid was to J. A. Priest, July 5, 1878, amount \$5.

Daniel McTavish, postmaster at Rose Creek and town clerk of Windom, was born in Elgin county, Province of Ontario, Canada, September 27, 1847. His parents were natives of Scotland, and pioneers of Elgin county. When the subject of our sketch was fourteen years of age he engaged as clerk in a grocery store. In 1866, during the time of the Fenian raid, he enlisted in the Elgin Volunteer Infantry, and served until the disturbance was quelled. He then engaged in lumbering and farming until 1875. He then came to Mower county and engaged in the mercantile trade at Rose Creek, and continued in business there until 1881, when he sold and returned to Canada. In 1883 he returned to Rose Creek and again engaged in mercantile business. He was married in 1877 to Emma D. Gahn. They have one child, Charles Emmet. He has served as town clerk several terms.

John Cronan, station agent at Rose Creek, was born in Washington county, Vermont, in July, 1857. When he was eight years of age his parents removed to Iowa, and located at Ossian, where they resided two years, then came to Rose Creek. When he was fourteen years of age he engaged to

learn telegraphy at Adams. In 1873 he was appointed station agent at Britt, Iowa. He was there a few months then returned to Rose Creek. In 1877 he engaged in mercantile trade and buying grain, and was the same year appointed station agent. In 1878 he sold his stock of goods and rented the building. Besides attending to his duties as station agent, he deals in grain. He has served his town as clerk two years, and justice of the peace two years. He was married in 1882 to Kate Casey.

D. F. Blyton opened the first harness shop in the village in 1877. He closed after running a few months.

Frank Rossler started the first shoe shop in 1878. He does custom work and repairing.

The first hotel in the village was opened in 1875, by J. M. Ray, the present proprietor.

George N. Price was the first blacksmith. He opened a shop here in 1873 on lot 6, block 1. He ran it for a few months then sold the shop to Frank Johnson, who was a wagon maker, and he carried on that trade for a few months. Peter Johnson was associated with him as blacksmith. After Frank Johnson sold out the shop was moved away and Peter Johnson built another small shop. In 1875 he sold to James Pierce. In 1880 Watt & Barnhart erected a shop 22x32, with 10 foot posts. They were here but a few weeks, then sold to James Pierce. In 1882 Peter Johnson returned and bought the shop. He still runs it.

Peter Johnson, blacksmith at Rose Creek, is a native of Sweden, born October 9, 1849. He attended school until fourteen years of age, when he engaged with his father, who

was a blacksmith, to learn the trade. He continued to work at blacksmithing in Sweden until 1871, when he came to America. He came to Mower county and located at Brownsdale, where he engaged with Walter Ware in blacksmithing and worked for him six months. He then rented a shop in Brownsdale. In 1874 he came to Rose Creek, and worked at his trade until 1876, when he returned to Sweden and built a shop, where he carried on business until 1882, when he returned to Rose Creek and bought his present shop. He does shoeing and general repairing, and is well patronized. Mr. Johnson was married in 1871 to Lena Johnson, also a native of Sweden. They have four children—Nettie, Hannah, Amanda and August.

Rose Creek church of Christ was organized on the 22d of January, 1875, at the Rose Creek school house by Elder W. J. Bursell. The following were the first members: D. S. B. Mollison, Mary B. Mollison, Andrew Robert Robertson, Geo. N. Conkey, Isaac M. Ray, Eva Smith, Thomas Mollison, John Merrill, Alena M. Mollison, Willard G. Thompson, Celinda Conkey, N. N. Thompson, Abby F. Thompson, L. F. Corbitt, Josephine Mollison, Timothy Bulson, Harriet Bulson, Mary Ruland, Joseph Ondrick, Ella L. Thompson, Armanda Ruland, Ella Merrill, Jane Robertson, Lucy Burgor, Harvey Burgor, Julius Thompson, William Miner, William Robertson, Sarah Robertson, Lydia Burgor, Sarah Burgor, Alfred Snyder, Pliny Conkey and Hulbert Thompson.

The first officers elected were as follows:

Clerk, W. M. Corbitt; Elder, N. N. Thompson; Deacons, John Merrill, Andrew Robertson, Eliza Conkey and Mary B. Mollison; Treasurer, George N. Conkey. The election was held at the house of N. N. Thompson, on the 28th of January, 1875. The society met for worship at the Rose Creek school house until 1878, when a church building was erected in the village. Elder Bursell was pastor for four years, and was then succeeded by Elder F. A. Baker the present pastor. Preaching is held once in four weeks.

At about the same time as the church was organized a Union Sabbath school was instituted which met regularly until the fall of 1883.

The Rose Creek Congregational church was organized on the 29th of October, 1872, in the Robertson school house by Rev. R. Hall, state superintendent of home missions, assisted by Rev. A. Morse, home missionary. Among the first members were: Obediah Wheelock and wife; W. Corbitt, N. N. Thompson and wife, and Mrs. W. C. Watt. The following officers were elected: Clerk, W. W. Corbitt; Deacon, Obediah Wheelock; Treasurer, W. W. Corbitt; Trustees, N. N. Thompson three years, W. W. Corbitt two years, W. C. Watt one year.

A church building was erected in 1873, located at Rose Creek station. It is a neat frame house painted white and is in good repair. The society has flourished and now has nineteen members. L. B. Fairbanks is the present deacon and clerk. Those who have preached for the society are Elder Morse and Rev. L. H. Moses. There is a flourishing Sunday school in connection

with this church, of which Daniel McTavish is superintendent.

Captain Luke B. Fairbanks, deacon of Rose Creek Congregational Church, was born in Windsor county, Vermont, March 28, 1838. When he was seventeen years of age he went to Iowa to join an older brother in Mitchell county, and spent three years with him in Mitchell and Howard counties, then came to Austin with him. His brother purchased an interest in a steam saw mill, and later added a flour mill. He assisted his brother in the mill there until 1860, when he sold out and bought a farm in Windom. He spent the summer with his brother here; then in the fall returned to Vermont. He enlisted there in May, 1861, in Company F, Third Vermont Volunteer Infantry, and with the regiment joined the Army of the Potomac. The first battle in which he participated was the battle of Lee's Mills, in which he was wounded. As soon as he was able to make the trip he was granted a furlough and visited home. He joined the regiment after an absence of three months. His health was not good at the time, and he was detached for the recruiting service in Vermont. He again joined the regiment in December, and was with them until after the close of the war, having veteranized in 1863. Among the many battles in which he participated, we mention the following: Second battle of Fredericksburg, Wilderness, Petersburg, Cold Harbor, Spottsylvania, was with Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley and participated in the battle of Winchester, was in New York City at the time of the riot, and in the battles of Gettysburg and Cedar Creek. He was mustered into the service as a private. He was promoted for gallant and meritorious conduct, May, 1864, to First Lieuten-

ant, and soon after to Captain. He was discharged from the service with the regiment, July, 1865, and returned to Vermont and bought a farm. In 1869 he sold out there and emigrated to Kansas. He took a homestead and bought some wild land in \_\_\_\_\_ county. He built a stone house and improved a portion of the land, living there until 1872, when he sold and came to Mower county, and bought wild land in the northeast quarter of section 29. He has improved the land, set out fruit, shade and ornamental trees, and now he has a pleasant home. He was joined in marriage in 1862 to Carrie Bowen, also a native of Vermont. They have five children, named Samuel, Henry, Eugene, Guy and Dan.

The Methodist class of Rose Creek was organized March 21, 1877, from the remnant of the Slocum class and others coming in. Its membership was eighteen; by removals and other causes it has now been decreased to ten, with two officers, viz.: A. H. Williams, Class Leader and Steward; O. Wheelock, Steward. It is connected with the Austin circuit. Rev. Mr. Kerr was the first who held charge of this class. The present preacher is Rev. W. A. Tickner, whose weekly discourse is given in the Congregational church. The Sunday school is held with the Congregationalists.

On the 15th of March, 1869, a small child of Thomas Smith, of Rose Creek, was burned so badly that it died in a short time. It seems the child was playing with a newspaper near the stove when its mother went out of doors for a moment. The paper in some way caught fire and communicated the flames to the child's clothing. The mother was attracted to the house by the little one's screams, but too late to save its life.

## CHAPTER XXXVII.

## CONDENSED HISTORY OF MINNESOTA.

Before the advent of the Red Men, who were found in possession by the Europeans, who inhabited this country, is a subject yet unsolved, and is shrouded in mystery. That there were human beings of a distinct race from the red men of later days, is generally conceded, but scientists fail as yet to agree as to their nature and origin. That this continent is co-existent with the world of the ancients cannot be questioned. Every investigation instituted under the auspices of modern civilization confirms this fact. It is thought by many that the first inhabitants came from Asia, by way of Behring's Strait, and in large numbers. Magnificent cities and monuments were raised at the bidding of tribal leaders, and populous settlements centered with thriving villages sprang up everywhere in manifestation of the progress of the people. For the last four hundred years the colonizing Caucasian has trodden on the ruins of a civilization whose greatness he could only surmise. Among these ruins are pyramids similar to those which have rendered Egypt famous. The pyramid of

Chalula is square, each side of its base being 1,335 feet, and its height 172 feet. Another pyramid north of Vera Cruz is formed of large blocks of highly polished porphyry, and bears upon its front hieroglyphic inscriptions and curious sculpture. It is 82 feet square, and a flight of 57 steps conducts to its summit, which is 65 feet high. The ruins of Palenque are said to extend 20 miles along the ridge of a mountain, and the remains of an Aztec city, near the banks of the Gila, are spread over more than a square league. The principal feature of the Aztec civilization which has come down to us was its religion, which we are told was of a dark and gloomy character. Each new god created by their priesthood, instead of arousing new life in the people, brought death to thousands; and their grotesque idols exposed to drown the senses of the beholders in fear, wrought wretchedness rather than spiritual happiness. In fact, fear was the great animating principal, the motive power which sustained this terrible religion. Their altars were sprinkled with blood drawn from their own bodies in

large quantities, and on them thousands of human victims were sacrificed in honor of the demons whom they worshipped. The head and heart of every captive taken in war were offered up as a sacrifice to the god of battles, while the victorious legions feasted on the remaining portions of the bodies. It is said that during the ceremonies attendant on the consecration of two of their temples, the number of prisoners offered up in sacrifice was 12,210, while they themselves contributed large numbers of voluntary victims to the terrible belief.

The race known as the Mound-Builders next attracts the attention of ethnologists. Throughout the Mississippi Valley, including many portions of Iowa and Minnesota are found mounds and walls of earth or stone, which can only have a human origin. These mounds vary in size from a few feet to hundreds of feet in diameter. In them are often found stone axes, pestles, arrow-heads, spear-points, pieces of flint, and other articles. Pottery of various designs is very common in them, and from the material of which they are made geologists have attempted to assign their age.

Some have thought that the Mound-Builders were a race quite distinct from the modern Indians, and that they were in an advanced state of civilization. The best authorities now agree that while the comparatively civilized people called the Aztecs built the cities whose ruins are occasionally found, the Mound-Builders were the immediate ancestors of the Indians De Soto first saw, and little different from the Indians of to-day.

The origin of the Red Men, or American Indians, is a subject which interests as well

as instructs. It is a favorite topic with the ethnologist, even as it is one of deep concern to the ordinary reader. A review of two works lately published on the origin of the Indians, treats the matter in a peculiarly reasonable light. It says;

“Recently a German writer has put forward one theory on the subject, and an English writer has put forward another and directly opposite theory. The difference in opinion concerning our aboriginals among authors who have made a profound study of races, is at once curious and interesting. Blumenbach treats them in his classification as a distinct variety of the human family; but, in the three-fold division of Dr. Latham, they are ranked among the Mongolidæ. Other writers on races regard them as a branch of the great Mongolian family, which at a distant period found its way from Asia to this continent, and remained here for centuries separate from the rest of mankind, passing, meantime, through divers phases of barbarism and civilization. Morton, our eminent ethnologist, and his followers, Nott and Gliddon, claim for our native Red Men an origin as distinct as the flora and fauna of this continent. Prichard, whose views are apt to differ from Morton’s, finds reason to believe, on comparing the American tribes together, that they must have formed a separate department of nations from the earliest period of the world. The era of their existence as a distinct and isolated people must probably be dated back to the time which separated into nations the inhabitants of the Old World, and gave to each its individuality and primitive language. Dr. Robert Brown, the latest authority, attributes, in his ‘Races of Man-

kind,' an Asiatic origin to our aboriginals. He says the Western Indians not only personally resemble their nearest neighbors—the Northeastern Asiatics—but they resemble them in language and tradition. The Esquimaux on the American and the Tchuktcis on the Asiatic side understand one another perfectly. Modern anthropologists, indeed, are disposed to think that Japan, the Kuriles, and neighboring regions, may be regarded as the original home of the greater part of the native American race. It is also admitted by them that between the tribes scattered from the Arctic sea to Cape Horn there is more uniformity of physical feature than is seen in any other quarter of the globe. The weight of evidence and authority is altogether in favor of the opinion that our so-called Indians are a branch of the Mongolian family, and all additional researches strengthen the opinion. The tribes of both North and South America are unquestionably homogeneous, and, in all likelihood, had their origin in Asia, though they have been altered and modified by thousands of years of total separation from the present stock."

If the conclusions arrived at by the reviewer is correct, how can one account for the vast difference in manner and form between the Red Man as he is now known, or even as he appeared to Columbus and his successors in the field of discovery, and the comparatively civilized inhabitants of Mexico, as seen in 1521 by Cortez, and of Peru, as witnessed by Pizarro in 1532? The subject is worthy of investigation.

In the year 1541, Ferdinand DeSoto, a Spaniard, discovered the Mississippi river, at the mouth of the Washita. He, however,

penetrated no further north than the 35th parallel of latitude, his death terminating the expedition. It was thus left for a later discoverer to first view the "beautiful land."

In a grand council of Indians on the shores of Lake Superior, they told the Frenchmen glowing stories of the "great river" and the countries near it. Marquette, a Jesuit father, became inspired with the idea of discovering this noble river. He was delayed in this great undertaking, however, and spent the interval in studying the language and habits of the Illinois Indians, among whom he expected to travel. In 1673 he completed his preparations for the journey, in which he was to be accompanied by Joliet, an agent of the French Government. The Indians, who had gathered in large numbers to witness his departure, tried to dissuade him from the undertaking, representing that the Indians of the Mississippi Valley were cruel and blood-thirsty, and would resent the intrusion of strangers upon their domain. The great river itself, they said, was the abode of terrible monsters, who could swallow both canoes and men. But Marquette was not diverted from his purpose by these reports, and set out on his adventurous trip May 13; he reached, first, an Indian village where once had been a mission, and where he was treated hospitably; thence, with the aid of two Miami guides, he proceeded to the Wisconsin, down which he sailed to the great Mississippi, which had so long been anxiously looked for; floating down its unknown waters, the explorer discovered, on the 25th of June, traces of Indians on the west bank of the river, and landed a little above the river now known as

the DesMoines. For the first time Europeans trod the soil of Iowa. Marquette remained here a short time, becoming acquainted with the Indians, and then proceeded on his explorations. He descended the Mississippi to the Illinois, by which and Lake Michigan he returned to French settlements.

Nine years later, in 1682, La Salle descended the Mississippi to the Gulf or Mexico, and, in the name of the king of France, took formal possession of all the immense region watered by the great rivers and its tributaries from its source to its mouth, and named it Louisiana, in honor of his master, Louis XIV. The river he called "Colbert," in honor of the French Minister, and at its mouth erected a column and a cross bearing the inscription, in French:

"LOUIS THE GREAT, KING OF FRANCE AND NAVARRE,  
REIGNING APRIL 9, 1682."

France then claimed by right of discovery and occupancy the whole valley of the Mississippi and its tributaries, including Texas. Spain at the same time laid claim to all the region about the Gulf of Mexico, and thus these two great nations were brought into collision. But the country was actually held and occupied by the native Indians, especial-

ly the great Miami Confederacy, the Miamis proper (anciently the Twightwees) being the eastern and most powerful tribe.

Spain having failed to make any settlement in the newly-discovered country, it was left for France to occupy the land, and that government, soon after the discovery of the mouth of the Mississippi by La Salle, in 1682, began to encourage the policy of establishing a line of trading posts and missionary stations, extending through the west from Canada to Louisiana.

In 1762, France, in a time of extreme weakness, ceded all the territory west of the Mississippi, including what is now Minnesota, to Spain, which power retained possession until October 1, 1800, when it retroceded it to France. This latter power ceded it to the United States in 1803, for the sum of \$15,000,000.

On assuming control, the United States organized all that region west of the Mississippi and north of the territory of Orleans as the District of Louisiana. In 1805 the District of Louisiana was organized into the Territory of Louisiana. This Territory was subsequently divided, and now forms seven great States—Louisiana, Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska.

## CHAPTER XXXVIII.

## ORGANIZATION OF MINNESOTA.

On the third of March, 1849, the bill was passed by Congress for organizing the territory of Minnesota, whose boundary on the west extended to the Missouri river. At this time the region was little more than a wilderness. The west bank of the Mississippi from the Iowa line to Lake Itasca, was unceded by the Indians.

On the first of June, Governor Ramsey, by proclamation, declared the territory duly organized, with the following officers: Alexander Ramsey, of Pennsylvania, Governor; C. K. Smith, of Ohio, Secretary; A. Goodrich, of Tennessee, Chief Justice; D. Cooper, of Pennsylvania, and B. B. Meeker, of Kentucky, Associate Judges; Joshua L. Taylor, of Kentucky, Marshal; H. L. Mass, Attorney of the United States.

On the accession of Pierce to the presidency of the United States, the officers appointed under the Tyler and Fillmore administration were removed, and the following gentlemen substituted: Governor, W. A. Gorman, of Indiana; Secretary, J. T. Rosser, of Virginia; Chief Justice, W. H. Welch, of

Minnesota; Associates, Moses Sherburne, of Maine, and A. G. Chatfield, of Wisconsin.

Governor Gorman was succeeded as Governor by Samuel Medary in 1857. He served as Governor until the admission of Minnesota into the union, when at the first election Henry H. Sibley was elected Governor. He was succeeded by Alexander Ramsey in 1859, who was his own successor in 1862, and on the 7th of January, 1863, delivered the annual message before the fifth State Legislature. During this session he was elected to the vacancy that would take place in the United States Senate by the expiration of the term of Henry M. Rice. After Alexander Ramsey became a senator, the Lieutenant-Governor, Henry A. Swift, became Governor by constitutional provision. In 1863 Stephen A. Miller was elected Governor to succeed Governor Swift. He held the office until succeeded in 1865 by William R. Marshall, who served two terms, or until 1869, when Horace Austin was elected. He also served two terms, and was succeeded in 1873 by Cushman K. Davis, who served

until 1875, when John S. Pillsbury was elected to fill the office, serving until 1881, being the only one who has been honored by a third term. He was succeeded by Lucius F. Hubbard, who is now serving his second term.

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## CHAPTER XXXIX.

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### MINNESOTA DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

The people of Minnesota had not been as excited as the citizens of the Atlantic States on the question which was discussed before the presidential election of November, 1860, and a majority had calmly declared their preference for Abraham Lincoln, as president of the Republic.

But the blood of her quiet and intelligent population was stirred on the morning of April 14, 1861, by the intelligence in the daily newspapers that the day before the insurgents of South Carolina had bombarded Fort Sumpter, and that after a gallant resistance of thirty-four hours Gen. Robert Anderson and the few soldiers of his command had evacuated the Fort.

Governor Ramsey was in Washington at this period, and called upon the president of the Republic, with two other citizens from

Minnesota, and was the first of the State governors to tender the services of his fellow citizens. The offer of a regiment was accepted. The first company raised under the call of Minnesota was raised at St. Paul, and its captain was the esteemed William H. Acker, who afterwards fell in battle.

On the last Monday of April a camp for the First Regiment was opened at Fort Snelling, more companies having offered than were necessary, on the 30th of May Governor Ramsey sent a telegram to the secretary of war offering another regiment.

For the suppression of the rebellion, the State raised eleven regiments of infantry, one of artillery, three batteries, three of cavalry and two companies of sharpshooters.

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